

Navoi State University – Theory and Methodology of Education (Preschool Education)

Program Duration: 2 years

Mode of Study: Full-time

Program Code: 70110201

Total Workload: 120 ECTS credits

ECTS credits per semester: 30

Overview

The Master's degree program in **Theory and Methodology of Education (Preschool Education)** (Program Code: 70110201) at Navoi State University is a two-year, full-time academic program comprising a total workload of 120 ECTS credits (30 ECTS per semester). The program is designed to prepare highly qualified early childhood education researchers, preschool methodologists, curriculum developers, child development specialists, and higher education instructors equipped with advanced knowledge in early child pedagogy, developmental psychology, modern play-based learning frameworks, and innovative instructional methodologies for early childhood care and education (ECCE).

The curriculum integrates theoretical studies in early child development, neuro-pedagogy, inclusive preschool education, health-saving technologies, and early childhood educational management. Students gain expertise in designing age-appropriate curricula, assessing developmental milestones, developing interactive educational environments, and managing preschool organizations. The program places strong emphasis on modernizing Uzbekistan's preschool education sector, implementing national "Ilk Qadam" state curriculum frameworks, and fostering holistic emotional, cognitive, physical, and aesthetic development in young children.

Graduates of this program are fully equipped to pursue careers as university lecturers, early childhood research scholars, methodology specialists in preschool education departments, heads and directors of preschool institutions, curriculum developers, and educational consultants, as well as to continue their studies at the doctoral (PhD) level.

Assessment

A comprehensive and multi-component assessment system is applied in the Master's program in Theory and Methodology of Education (Preschool Education) to ensure continuous learning, scientific rigor, practical pedagogical competence, and early childhood research proficiency.

1. Course-based assessment

- **Presentations and seminars** – assess students' ability to analyze, present, and defend research on child developmental models, early childhood methodologies, play-based learning frameworks, and literature in academic settings.

- **Mini-tests, quizzes, and oral exams** – monitor understanding of core theoretical concepts, child psychology, preschool didactics, health-saving techniques, and developmental milestones.
 - **Midterm and final examinations** – evaluate theoretical depth, pedagogical diagnostic skills, and early education problem-solving through written examinations and case-study analyses.
 - **Portfolio assignments** – compile early childhood lesson plans, developmental observation journals, game-based learning kits, sample lecture modules, and research paper drafts demonstrating progressive skill development.
 - **Independent assignments** – encourage independent pedagogical literature reviews, comparative preschool system studies, developmental material design, and curriculum evaluation tasks.
2. **Research-based assessment**
- **Scientific Research Work (ITI)** – evaluated through research proposals, developmental experiment reports, observation logs, and defense of early childhood research outcomes before the department.
 - **Scientific and Pedagogical Work (IPI)** – evaluated via teaching practice, preparation of university-level lecture materials, practical seminar guides, and academic reporting.
 - **Master’s Thesis (MD/M)** – evaluated based on scientific originality, pedagogical validity, practical relevance to early childhood education, thesis writing quality, and public defense before the State Attestation Commission.
3. **Practice-based assessment**
- **Educational and Pedagogical Practice** – evaluated through performance in state and private preschool institutions, early child development centers, and pedagogical institutes, accompanied by comprehensive practice reports.
 - **Pre-graduation practice** – assessed on the integration of theoretical/empirical preschool research findings and final thesis preparation.
4. **Work-integrated learning**
- **Early Childhood Innovation & Design Projects** – assessed on developmental appropriateness, creative design, pedagogical effectiveness, and alignment with state preschool education standards.

Academic Requirements

Admission Requirements—Applicants applying for the Master’s degree program in Theory and Methodology of Education (Preschool Education) (Code: 70110201) must satisfy the following criteria:

- **Educational background** – A Bachelor’s degree (or equivalent qualification) in preschool education, primary education, pedagogy and psychology, or related educational/humanities fields from a recognized higher education institution.
- **Academic excellence** – Applicants holding an honors diploma (*imtiyozli diplom*) are eligible for preferential admission according to current regulations of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
- **Language proficiency** – A valid national or international certificate demonstrating at least B2-level foreign language proficiency (CEFR, IELTS, TOEFL, etc.) in English, Russian, or another recognized foreign language.

Graduation Requirements

To be granted the Master of Arts degree in Theory and Methodology of Education (Preschool Education), students are required to:

- Complete all compulsory and elective modules specified in the curriculum, accumulating a total of **120 ECTS credits** (30 ECTS per semester).
- Maintain standard academic standing according to Navoi State University regulations (passing marks in all subjects).
- Successfully complete all practical trainings (teaching internship, field preschool practice, and pre-graduation practice) with positive performance evaluations.
- Fulfill all research requirements (Scientific Research Work and Scientific-Pedagogical Work).
- Prepare, submit, and successfully defend a **Master's Thesis** demonstrating independent early childhood pedagogical research before the State Attestation Commission.
- Pass all required state attestation processes.

Courses Offered

Year 1

Compulsory:

- Research Methodology and Scientific Writing in Early Childhood Pedagogy
- Reforms in the Education System under the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan
- Theoretical Foundations and Modern Paradigms of Preschool Education
- Early Childhood Psychology and Neuro-pedagogy
- Methodology of Child Speech, Logic, and Creative Development

Elective:

- Comparative Early Childhood Education and Global ECCE Models
- Health-Saving Technologies and Physical Development in Early Childhood
- Modern Technologies and Digital Tools in Preschool Research
- Regulatory Documents, State Standards ("Ilk Qadam"), and Quality Management in ECCE
- Play-Based Learning and Game Technologies in Early Childhood

Year 2

Compulsory:

- Management and Quality Assurance in Preschool Educational Organizations
- Methodology of Preparing Children for Primary School Education
- Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Special Pedagogy

Elective:

- STEAM Education and Interactive Media in Preschool Settings
- Art Pedagogy and Aesthetic Education of Young Children
- Family-Preschool Educational Partnership and Socialization
- Professional Morality and Ethics in Academic and Educational Activity
- Diagnostic Methods and Developmental Assessment in Early Childhood
- Ethno-pedagogy and Moral-Spiritual Upbringing in Early Childhood
- Design of Interactive Educational Environments for Children

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Master's degree program in Theory and Methodology of Education (Preschool Education) acquire deep theoretical, diagnostic, and methodological expertise, enabling them to pursue careers across educational, administrative, research, and managerial sectors:

- **University Lecturer / Assistant Professor of Preschool Pedagogy** in higher education institutions, pedagogical institutes, and teacher professional development centers.
- **Methodology Specialist / Research Scholar** in preschool education research institutes, national curriculum development centers, and educational laboratories.
- **Preschool Institution Director / Executive Administrator** in state and private preschool educational organizations, early development centers, and international kindergartens.
- **Preschool Education Methodologist / Inspector** in regional departments of the Ministry of Preschool and School Education (*Maktabgacha va maktab ta'limi boshqarmasi*).
- **Early Childhood Curriculum & Play Material Developer** in educational publishing houses, EdTech enterprises, and toy manufacturing design boards.
- **Child Development & Family Consultant** providing professional advisory services on early learning, parental guidance, and school readiness.
- **ECCE Project Manager / Coordinator** in international development agencies (UNICEF, UNESCO, World Bank, ADB) managing early childhood development initiatives.
- **Specialist in Inclusive Early Education** designing specialized learning plans for children with special educational needs in early childhood settings.

Tuition Fees

- **For local students:** Approximate annual tuition – 9,700,000 UZS.
- **For international students:** Approximate annual tuition – 774.28 USD.

(Note: Tuition fees are subject to adjustment in accordance with university policy and foreign currency exchange rates.)

Learning Outcomes

Master's Degree in Theory and Methodology of Education (Preschool Education)

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

1. Knowledge

- **1.1.** Demonstrate advanced knowledge of early childhood pedagogical theories, neuro-pedagogical foundations, child psychology, and developmental stages.
- **1.2.** Understand national state curricula ("Ilk Qadam"), early learning standards, play-based methodologies, and school readiness criteria.
- **1.3.** Explain principles of inclusive early education, health-saving technologies, STEAM integration, and family-preschool partnership strategies.
- **1.4.** Demonstrate knowledge of early childhood research design, developmental diagnostics, qualitative observation methods, and pedagogical experiments.
- **1.5.** Recognize national legislation, international ECCE standards, quality assurance frameworks, and strategic reforms in Uzbekistan's preschool sector.

2. Skills

- **2.1.** Perform comprehensive theoretical and empirical analyses of early childhood learning processes, emotional-social growth, and preschool educational models.
- **2.2.** Design, implement, and evaluate age-appropriate curricula, game-based learning kits, and interactive developmental environments for young children.
- **2.3.** Develop higher-education course syllabi, lecture modules, practical seminar tasks, and assessment tools for preschool pedagogy disciplines.
- **2.4.** Apply child observation tools, developmental diagnostics, and student-centered teaching methodologies in early childhood research and instruction.
- **2.5.** Prepare scientific research papers, academic reviews, methodological guidelines, preschool literature, and publishable research theses.
- **2.6.** Effectively present early childhood research findings, school readiness strategies, and preschool policies to academic boards, educators, and public forums in national and foreign languages.

3. Competences

- **3.1. Preschool Research & Methodological Competence** – Conduct independent, scientifically grounded, and child-centered research in early childhood education and developmental methodology.
- **3.2. ECCE Leadership & Management Competence** – Direct preschool educational organizations, manage methodological teams, and lead early childhood quality assurance projects.
- **3.3. Methodological & Higher Education Competence** – Teach early childhood education subjects at higher education levels using interactive, reflective, and digital pedagogical methods.
- **3.4. Holistic Child Development Competence** – Foster creative, cognitive, emotional, physical, and moral-spiritual growth in children through modern play and activity-based frameworks.
- **3.5. Professional Ethics & Child Advocacy** – Uphold high standards of academic honesty, child rights protection, emotional well-being, and ethical care in educational and research practices.
- **3.6. Lifelong Learning Competence** – Continuously upgrade qualifications, adopt global early childhood innovations, and actively participate in national and international ECCE conferences and professional networks.