

Admissions Criteria

Rutledge Institute Scholars are academically excellent students with the values, commitment and professional ethics required to work effectively as early childhood educators. At the time of admission to the program, applicants must meet California University’s admissions standards, as well as the academic requirements, nonacademic professional disposition requirements, and all entry-level requirements for Pennsylvania teaching certification.

Candidates will be selected based on these criteria:

- High school grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.
- SAT or ACT scores to meet the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s qualifying score requirements.
- Written essay. (A specific prompt will be provided.)
- Letters of recommendation from three non-relatives (e.g., employer, teacher, guidance counselor, etc.) who have professional interactions with the applicant.
- Applicant’s interview performance.



Learn more

The Rutledge Institute for Early Childhood Education is seeking highly qualified students with a drive to excel and a sincere desire to enter the teaching profession.

Learn more about this expectational opportunity at California University of Pennsylvania. For an application or more information about the Rutledge Institute Scholars Program, visit the webpage via calu.edu/rutledge or contact Dr. Rebecca Maddas of Cal U’s Department of Childhood Education.

 rutledgeprogram@calu.edu

 724-938-4494



CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
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Criteria for Candidate Selection



THE RUTLEDGE INSTITUTE

*Educating young children today. Preparing the teachers of tomorrow.
Making a lasting difference in the field of childhood education.*



What is the Rutledge Institute?

THE KAREN AND TOM RUTLEDGE INSTITUTE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION is a center for educational excellence based at California University of Pennsylvania.

The Rutledge Institute provides:



High-quality preschool education for children ages 3-5. The institute's on-campus education center is staffed by teachers from The Village, a state- and nationally accredited preschool based in downtown California, Pa.



Exceptional learning opportunities for selected students enrolled as Rutledge Institute Scholars in California University's B.S.Ed. in PreK-4 Education program. Rutledge Institute Scholars gain firsthand experience as they work with children under the guidance of Cal U faculty and The Village teachers.



An innovative preschool curriculum that focuses on age-appropriate experiences in science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and math (STREAM), with an emphasis on emerging literacy in an information age.



As a Rutledge Institute Scholar, you will have an exceptional opportunity to become an expert practitioner and a leader in early childhood education.

Why become a Rutledge Institute Scholar?

Just 10 highly qualified students are selected for the program each year, based on a rigorous set of academic and nonacademic qualifications.

Students selected for the program enter as first-year students and continue through graduation, with the goal of earning a Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.Ed.) in PreK-4 Education, plus Pennsylvania teaching certification for grades PreK-4.

Each Rutledge Institute Scholar receives an annual scholarship that covers the cost of tuition and on-campus housing, so long as he/she continues to meet program requirements. Students pay for their own meal plan, parking fee and books.

As a Rutledge Institute Scholar at Cal U, you will:

- **GAIN TEACHING EXPERIENCE.** With faculty guidance, you'll work alongside teachers from The Village at the on-campus preschool. You'll also develop teaching skills through fieldwork in the University's network of Professional Development Schools.
- **BUILD COMMUNITY:** From Day One, you will be a part of a supportive living-learning community composed of fellow scholars. This structure allows scholars to support one another academically, collaborate on group projects, and find common ground outside of class.
- **DEVELOP LEADERSHIP:** You will have a variety of opportunities to develop leadership skills and professionalism, including a structured peer-mentoring program in which upperclassmen are paired with underclassmen to serve as support, encouragement, and guidance.
- **STAY ON THE LEADING EDGE:** You'll explore innovations in teaching and learning through enrichment, including conducting research through a partnership with the University Honors Program and an annual three-week summer session.

