



EARLY **C**HILDHOOD **E**DUICATION

An interdisciplinary program between the departments of
Human Development & Family Studies
&
Educational Specialties
in the College of Education, University of Nevada, Reno

Program Director & Advisor: Dr. Melissa M. Burnham
(775) 784-7012; mburnham@unr.edu; SFB 209

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ADVISEMENT MANUAL

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program at the University of Nevada, Reno, began in the fall of 1999. It is jointly administered by the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and the Department of Educational Specialties. This major leads to a Bachelor of Science degree. Graduates are eligible to apply for a teaching license which allows them to teach children from birth through second grade.

The ECE program is committed to preparing teachers who are able to meet the challenge of providing a developmentally appropriate education for young children, birth to age 8. ECE students will gain a keen appreciation for the importance of the early years in children's development and use their knowledge to provide programs that maximize the potential of the children in their care. Toward that end, students will acquire competencies in several key areas:

- ❖ a strong liberal arts background in academic disciplines
- ❖ a solid understanding of the principles of child development
- ❖ an appreciation of and skills for working in partnership with families
- ❖ appropriate management skills for creating effective early childhood classroom environments
- ❖ the ability to implement an integrated curriculum, reflecting thorough understanding of appropriate subjects and teaching methods
- ❖ an appreciation for and ability to work with children and families of different cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds
- ❖ the ability to include children of diverse abilities in the early childhood classroom
- ❖ the ability to apply knowledge of teaching in early childhood classrooms, including in infant, toddler, preschool, Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade programs

ADVISEMENT & ADMISSION TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Students should meet with the program advisor when they are considering changing their major to ECE, when they declare their major, and prior to registering for classes each semester. Dr. Burnham provides all initial and most ongoing advisement for this program and is happy to meet with students in person, by phone, or by email (see cover page for contact information).

When they first declare ECE as their major, students are considered ECE pre-majors. The student's DARS report should read "PM-ECE"; otherwise the student is not declared in the correct major. In order to be appropriately advised, students need to make sure they are in the correct major and are seeing the appropriate advisor.

CHANGING FROM A “PRE-MAJOR” TO A “MAJOR” IN ECE

Once a student is close to completing 30 credits, s/he can apply for full admission to the ECE program. October 1 is the deadline for spring admissions and March 1 for summer and fall admissions. All materials must be submitted to the Student Advisement Center in the William Raggio Building (room 2005) by these deadlines. To be considered for admission, prospective students must have:

- Completed 30 credits of college course work;
- Maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75;
- Successfully passed the reading, writing, and mathematics sections of the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST)* or the California Test of Basic Skills (CBST)** [see below];
- Completed an application form for Admission to Teacher Education (available in the Student Advising Office);
- Submitted 2 confidential letters of recommendation;
- Submitted a typed, well-written 1- to 2-page essay entitled “Qualities I Bring to the Early Childhood Teaching Profession”

*The Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST), also known as the “Praxis I,” is required because all Nevada teachers must demonstrate mastery of basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. In order to be admitted to a teacher education program, students must have passed the PPST, with scores filed in the Student Advisement Center by the deadlines listed above. Evidence of mastery of these skills is required for several of the more advanced courses in the ECE program. Students may take the ECE introductory courses prior to taking the PPST or CBEST.

**For students who will seek early childhood teaching positions in California, the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) is recommended in place of the PPST.

Information about the PPST or the CBEST can be obtained from the Student Advisement Center (WRB 2005), the Learning Resource Center (WRB 1021) or online: http://www.unr.edu/educ/ac/testing_10.html. The PPST can be taken in written form or by computer. Passing scores for the PPST are Reading = 174, Writing = 172, and Mathematics = 172. Computer test scheduling may be obtained by contacting the Sylvan Learning Center in Reno (1-800-853-6773). The closest location for taking the CBEST is in northern California. Study materials for the CBEST and PPST, including a computer practice test program, are available for student use in the Learning Resource Center (WRB 1021).

Deadlines for applications to the ECE full major

October 1 for SPRING ADMISSION

March 1 for SUMMER/FALL ADMISSION

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

I. General Education & Core Curriculum - 33 – 36 credits

Students enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program must complete two sets of requirements.

English – 3-6 credits

ENG 101 (3) Composition I _____

ENG 102 (3) Composition II _____

Mathematics - 3 credits

Refer to the “Mathematics” section of the Core Curriculum chapter in the UNR catalog _____

Natural Sciences – 6 credits

Group A: (3) Refer to the “Natural Sciences” Group A section of the Core Curriculum chapter in the UNR catalog _____

Group B: (3) NUTR 121 – Human Nutrition _____

Social Sciences – 3 credits

Refer to the “Social Sciences” section of the Core Curriculum chapter in the UNR catalog _____

Fine Arts – 3 credits

Refer to the “Fine Arts” section of the Core Curriculum chapter in the UNR catalog _____

Core Humanities – 9 credits

CH 201 (3) Foundations of Western Culture _____

CH 202 (3) The Modern World _____

CH 203 (3) The American Experience & Constitutional Change _____

Capstone Courses – 6 credits

HDFS 438 (3) Children & Families in a Multiethnic Society
(also meets diversity requirement) _____

EL 498 (3) Educational Leadership in Contemporary Society _____

II. Early Childhood Education – Program Requirements – 70 credits

Early Childhood Education Foundations – 15 credits

HDFS 201 (3) Lifespan Human Development (Fall only)

HDFS 232 (3) Diversity in Children (Spring only; CORE Divers)

HDFS 202 (3) Introduction to Families (Fall only)

EDU 203 (3) Introduction to Special Education (F&S)

OR

EDU 208 (3) Students with Diverse Abilities & Backgrounds

OR

HDFS 250 (3) Early Childhood Education (Fall only)

EDSP 471 (3) Foundations of Early Childhood Special Ed

OR

ECE 200 (3) The Exceptional Child (offered at NV Com. Col.)

Early Childhood Education Courses – 25 credits

HDFS 204 (3) Child Guidance & Parenting (Fall only)

HDFS 429 (4) Preschool Curriculum II (Spring only)

HDFS 428 (3) Preschool Curriculum I (Fall only)

HDFS 435 (3) Child Socialization: A Systems Per. (Spring only)

OR

*EDSP 432 (3) Serv Individuals w/ Disabilities & Their Families

HDFS 391 (3) Introduction to Research (Fall only)

SPA 340 (3) Speech & Language Development (Spring only)

HDFS 231 (3) Practicum Across the Lifespan (F&S)

HDFS 431a (3) Adv Studies in Human Dev: Infancy (F&S)

OR

HDFS 431b (3) Adv Stud in Hum Dev: Early Childhood (F&S)

Early Childhood Education Licensure Courses - 15

*Students must be formally admitted into the program before taking these courses.

*EDRL 441 (3) Literacy & Young Children (Fall only)

*ECE 451 (3) Teaching & Learning Mathematics (Spring only)

*ECE 452 (3) Science Methods for Birth to Age 8 (Fall only)

*ECE 455 (3) Assess. of Children Birth to Age 8 (Spring only)

*EDRL 442 (3) Rdg & Lang Arts in the Lower Elem Grades (F&S)

Student Teaching – 15 credits

*ECE 493 (12) Supervised Internship in Early Childhood Education

*EDSP 494 (3) Internship Seminar

Optional Specializations – 12 credits

Students may choose to complete an additional 12 credits in an optional specialization, in Early Childhood Special Education or in Family Support and Education. A list of courses for these is available from the Department of Human Development and Family Studies or the Department of Education Specialties.

Undergraduate Early Childhood Education Major: Suggested Course Sequence

Year	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
1	English 101 (Core) Math 120 (Core) HDFS 201 (Fall only) OR EPY 330a HDFS 202 (Fall only) HDFS 250 (Fall only) <div style="text-align: right;">15 credits</div>	English 102 (Core) Fine Arts (Core) Social Science (Core) HDFS 232 (Spring only; Core Diversity) Elective <div style="text-align: right;">15 credits</div>
2	NUTR 121 (Core) CH 201 (Core) HDFS 231 (Fall and Spring) HDFS 204 (Fall only) Elective <div style="text-align: right;">15 credits</div>	CH 202 (Core) Course on children with disabilities Group A Science (Core) SPA 340 (Spring only) Elective (4 cr) <div style="text-align: right;">16 credits</div>
3	CH 203 (Core) HDFS 428 (Fall only) *EDRL 441 (Fall only) HDFS 391 Area of Specialization or Elective Area of Specialization or Elective <div style="text-align: right;">18 credits</div>	HDFS 429 (Spring only) HDFS 435 (Spring only) OR *EDSP 432 (SU or FL) HDFS 431a OR HDFS 431b (each offered every other spring) *ECE 451 (Spring only) *ECE 455 (Spring only) <div style="text-align: right;">16 credits</div>
4	EL 498 (CAP) HDFS 438 (CAP) *ECE 452 (Fall only) *EDRL 442 Area of Specialization or Elective Area of Specialization or Elective <div style="text-align: right;">18 credits</div>	*ECE 493 (12 cr) *EDSP 494 (3 cr) <div style="text-align: right;">15 credits</div>

STUDENT TEACHING

In their final year of the program, students spend a full semester in a supervised internship. Students must file an application for the Supervised Internship the semester prior to placement.

Application Deadlines

February 15 for a FALL semester internship

September 15 for a SPRING semester internship

Application forms are available in the office of the Director of Field Experiences in WRB 2004.

Criteria for approval of the internship include the following:

- Complete **ALL** required courses
- Complete and have a faculty-reviewed and approved Professional Performance Assessment (Portfolio) -- Due during the semester *prior to* internship; see separate specific guidelines for details
- Have a minimum overall GPA of 2.75
- Hold a valid substitute license* [see below]
- Have a valid TB skin test (satisfied by a valid substitute license)
- Be qualified in the professional judgment of the faculty
- Have the approval of the student's faculty advisor

*To be eligible for an internship placement (student teaching) in the public schools, students must acquire a **Substitute License** in Nevada. The substitute license must be obtained before approval for internship placement can be made. To obtain such a substitute license, students must submit to fingerprinting and a background check.

The substitute license will make the later process of applying for a Nevada teaching credential much easier. For students who do not plan to teach in Nevada, a local police department can provide the fingerprinting and background check.

For more information about the substitute license, students can contact the Nevada State Department of Education in Carson City at 687-3115 or visit their website: <http://www.doe.nv.gov/licensing/appforms.html>

Students who wish to have an internship placement outside of Washoe County must have an overall GPA of 3.0 and the approval of the ECE and College of Education faculty. An additional form requesting an "out of area" placement can be obtained from the Director of Field Experiences.

GRADUATION AND BEYOND

Application for Graduation

Students must apply for graduation *before* the beginning of the semester during which they plan to graduate. The application for university graduation must be submitted online at the following website: <https://www.applyweb.com/public/register?s=unrgradu>. Please note that there is a fee to apply for graduation. Check the website for application deadlines and more details. Students should register for their final semester before completing the graduation application. All requirements for graduation must either be completed or in progress when a student applies for graduation. When a student's DARS report reads, "All Requirements Complete Pending Current Registration," s/he has been approved for graduation, as long as the final semester is completed satisfactorily. If a DARS report does not say this after a student has registered for his/her final semester and has applied for graduation, the student should make an advising appointment immediately. In order to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education, students must:

- have completed a minimum of 128 credits of college course work
- have completed at least 64 credits at a 4-year institution of higher education
- have a minimum of 40 credits at the 300 and 400 levels, 32 of which must be taken at UNR
- meet all the requirements of the University CORE curriculum
- meet all the requirements of the Early Childhood Education Program, including successful completion of student teaching
- Have a minimum overall GPA of 2.75

Application for a Teaching License

With a B.S. from the University of Nevada, Reno in Early Childhood Education, students are eligible to apply for a Nevada teaching license. This license allows graduates to teach kindergarten through second grade and in pre-k programs in Nevada public schools.

The teaching license is granted by the Nevada Department of Education in Carson City. Students must obtain the application form from the Nevada Department of Education, arrange for forwarding required documentation (official transcripts, PPST scores, PRAXIS II* scores) and pay the fee to receive the teaching license. Forms can be obtained at the following website: <http://www.doe.nv.gov/licensing/appforms.html>. The University does not grant the license. Faculty in the ECE program will verify to the Dept. of Education that students have successfully completed all program requirements.

*The PRAXIS II exam is required by the Nevada Dept. of Education for teacher licensure. Effective February 2008, ECE students are expected to take the early childhood versions of the Praxis II (#0021 & 0022) in order to be eligible for a "highly qualified" designation. Students are encouraged to take the Praxis II during their semester of student teaching. Please note that a "no fault" period is in effect through February 15, 2009, during which all scores will count as passing.

SUGGESTED SEQUENCE OF ACTIVITIES FOR ECE STUDENTS

YEAR 1

- Begin taking University Core classes
- Begin taking ECE introductory classes
- Complete at least 30 credits
- Maintain at least a 2.75 GPA
- Begin working on portfolio
- Consider joining the Student Member Section of the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children

YEAR 2

- Take the PPST or the CBEST (by the end of the fall semester)
- Continue taking University Core classes
- Complete ECE Introductory classes
- Apply for admission to Teacher Education
- After being admitted, begin taking ECE licensure classes
- Continue working on portfolio

YEAR 3

- Continue taking ECE and licensure classes
- Continue taking Area of Specialization classes or added electives
- Continue working on portfolio

YEAR 4

- Apply for Supervised Internship
- Apply for Substitute License
- Complete ECE classes
- Complete ECE Area of Specialization classes or electives
- Take Capstone classes
- Apply for graduation
- Finalize Professional Portfolio
- Participate in Supervised Internship and Seminar during last semester
- Take Praxis II exams (0021 & 0022)
- GRADUATE!
- Apply for Teaching License