

Course Description

EEC1000 | Introduction to Early Childhood Education | 3.00 credits

This course will provide an overview of early childhood education from birth to age eight. The student will develop an understanding of family and societal influences on young children, a relationship-based approach to responsive program planning principles of child growth and development, the role of play in learning, and the importance of educational neuroscience in early childhood. Ten hours of service learning in an early childhood center is required.

Course Competencies

Competency 1: The student will define the teacher's role as a professional by:

1. Discussing expected professional behavior and professional characteristics of an early childhood educator
2. Identifying professional early childhood organizations on the local, state, and national levels
3. Discussing the various types of early care and education programs
4. Discussing career pathways and professional roles in early care and education

Competency 2: The student will summarize brain development, prenatal development, and childbirth by:

1. Identifying the core concepts of genetics and prenatal development
2. Discussing the fetus, the womb, and the mother's experience in relationship to development
3. Examining basic principles of brain development
4. Discussing the effect of stress on development
5. Recognizing prenatal, perinatal, and postnatal factors that place a child at risk for developmental delay or disability

Competency 3: The student will analyze the historical and philosophical influences and developmental theories of early childhood education by:

1. Researching major historical theorists and their contributions to child development (e.g., Froebel, Pestalozzi, Montessori, Owen, Dewey, Sprague-Mitchell, and Malaguzzi)
2. Identifying the developmental domains and milestones of child growth and development for the typically developing child
3. Discussing influential developmental theorists (e.g., Piaget, Erikson, Vygotsky, Maslow, Bowlby, Ainsworth, Mahler, Gardner, Skinner, and Bronfenbrenner) and their contributions to understanding children and learning
4. Examining the importance of educational neuroscience research in early childhood education

Competency 4: The student will analyze concepts of attachment and social-emotional development and identify their relationship to behavior by:

1. Defining and describing stages of attachment
2. Identifying the interconnection of relationships and learning

Competency 5: The student will observe and record behavior by:

1. Identifying types of observation techniques
2. Examining the relationship between positive guidance and the child's developing sense of competency, self-esteem, and self-regulation
3. Understanding the relationship between child development and realistic behavioral expectations for children

4. Identifying techniques and strategies that promote conflict resolution and prosocial behavior
5. Identifying developmentally appropriate practices for an effective classroom

Competency 6: The student will analyze the role of play in young children's learning by:

1. Discussing the importance of promoting play for the development of the whole child
2. Describing the developmental sequence and stages of play
3. Identifying environments and activities that promote active learning through play
4. Summarizing the characteristics of developmentally appropriate practices that guide effective instruction

Competency 7: The student will analyze contemporary research, trends, and issues in early childhood by:

1. Discussing the variety of family systems and how the dynamics of these systems impact the developing child
2. Examining the influence of societal factors, such as media, technology, social policies, and violence, on the developing child
3. Identifying resources and strategies for collaborating with community professionals to support children and families
4. Identifying professional organizations, research publications, and activities in the fields of early childhood education and early childhood special education