



### **Course Description**

#### **EEC3412 | Family and Community Partnerships in Early Childhood Education | 3.00 credits**

This course focuses on family engagement and community involvement in early childhood education. The student will identify strategies for establishing and maintaining reciprocal relationships with culturally diverse parents, families, and communities. The student will explore ways to connect students, parents, families, the school, and the community as a partnership to support student learning and well-being.

### **Course Competencies**

**Competency 1:** The student will identify family support as key element in forming relationships with families by:

1. Defining the concept of “family”
2. Comparing and contrasting traditional and contemporary families
3. Reviewing the importance of family in the lives of children
4. Discussing families as the child’s first teachers
5. Examining principles of support that all families need such as partnership, shared power, family strengths, cultural competence, family driven, social support, hope and joy
6. Articulating how high-quality early childhood education facilities support families
7. Examining how principles of family support enrich family interaction and cultural continuity

**Competency 2:** The student will be able to support Family Literacy by:

1. Defining Family Literacy
2. Discussing families as first teachers of children’s emerging literacy skills
3. Evaluating how home language and culture affect literacy development
4. Identifying strategies to support non-English speaking families in promoting literacy
5. Analyzing resources to assist families in order to increase literacy skills
6. Connecting families with resources for children's literature available for family home
7. Identifying accommodations for families based on cultural, linguistic and literacy differences

**Competency 3:** The student will identify strategies that build respectful relationships and partnerships with families by:

1. Identifying best practices in creating a welcoming environment
2. Discussing strength-based approaches to relationship and trust building between home and school
3. Assessing habits that hinder or help communication by utilizing NAEYC Ethical Code of Conduct
4. Analyzing problem-solving strategies for resolving conflicts such as differences between home and program practices

**Competency 4:** The student will develop strategies for family involvement by:

1. Defining and expanding the understanding of family involvement
2. Identifying strategies and skills for increasing family engagement through family-driven activities and a family-centered curriculum
3. Assessing biases and identifying barriers toward male involvement in early care and education programs
4. Identifying strategies for involving men in early care and education programs
5. Planning culturally sensitive activities for family involvement that are respectful of family differences
6. Developing plans for classroom "celebrations" that are inclusive of all cultures and facilitate family participation

**Competency 5:** The student will characterize family processes in children’s development by:

1. Identifying diverse interactions in family systems
2. Describing parenting styles, discipline, and parental adaptations to ages and stages of development
3. Identifying the influence of siblings and/or new family members in children’s development
4. Characterizing family and culture in a changing social world
5. Discussing the influence of culture, class, ethnicity, and language in children’s development

6. Summarizing the influence of technology on children's development

**Competency 6:** The student will summarize strategies to promote strong families by:

1. Identifying essential social support as a component to building strong families and healthy communities
2. Exploring issues of power and support with families in order to strengthen them as advocates for their children and themselves
3. Defining and discussing help-giving and help-seeking skills that contribute to an environment that empowers the individual, the family, and that community
4. Assessing child care facilities for child placement

**Competency 7:** The student will develop strategies to affirm diversity by:

1. Defining and expanding the understanding of culture
2. Identifying strategies and skills to support cultural awareness, cultural continuity, and empowerment of families
3. Discussing how prejudice, racism, and other biases affect early childhood programs, families, and communities
4. Identifying principles and strategies for building culturally responsive practice and equitable communities

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities