



Course Description

EEC3613 | Observation and Assessment of Young Children | 3.00 credits

This course will provide an overview of the process and importance of observing, documenting, and interpreting the behavior of young children. The student will learn and apply various methods to document the ongoing development of children and the value of using this information to support and plan for learning experiences. (Ten hours of clinical experience in an approved birth-age four inclusion setting.)

Course Competencies

Competency 1: The student will embed experiences related to assessment within play-based environments, curriculum and care routines for all children by:

1. Discussing how teachers meet the needs of all children within various play-based environments, curriculum models, and care routines
2. Creating an individualized plan based on observation and assessment data that meets the needs of the child and is embedded into the existing curriculum and care routine
3. Evaluating current research on educational neuroscience and the impact of routines on brain development in young children

Competency 2: The student will describe the characteristics, strengths and limitations of common assessment tools with all children's developmental, cultural and linguistic characteristics by:

1. Identifying the characteristics of common assessment tools
2. Comparing and contrasting the strengths and limitations of common assessment tools
3. Analyzing how children's cultural or linguistic background could influence assessment data

Competency 3: The student will demonstrate systematic observation methods to provide data to assess the impact of the environment, interactions and curriculum on all domains of children's learning by:

1. Using both formal and informal observation instruments to collect data on young children and their environment
2. Documenting formal and informal observations
3. Analyzing information from observations to differentiate instruction for children
4. Critiquing on the importance of observations for noticing, reporting, and documenting the signs of child abuse and neglect

Competency 4: The student will discuss the value of partnerships with families and colleagues in utilizing interpretations of observational data to inform planning for the needs of children by:

1. Practicing conferencing with families and constructively gathering and sharing information with colleagues and families
2. Discussing ways to build partnerships between home and school
3. Reflecting on how teachers and families can work together to plan for the needs of children

Competency 5: The student will compare the purpose, value, and use of formal and informal observation and assessment strategies in early childhood settings by:

1. Identifying the six major aspects of child development: emotional, social, motor, cognitive, language, and creative, and discussing the relationship to typical and atypical development
2. Discussing the rationale and a variety of methods of observation and assessment of children
3. Using program assessments to determine the needs of a classroom