EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE)

Courses

ECE 101. Introduction To Early Childhood Education. 3 Credits.
This course is an introduction to the field of early childhood. It studies the foundations, history, philosophy, ethics, the role of the teacher, and the changing needs of children in a variety of settings. This course will address licensing regulations, state and national standards and how they impact on the social, emotional, and intellectual growth of the child. A 16-hour field experience is required for all ECT (transfer) students only, in order to meet the new Massachusetts Early Childhood Transfer Compact. Students participating in field experiences must undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check. Prerequisites: ENG 098, FYE 101, RDG 098, or placement.

ECE 102. Early Childhood Curriculum And Program Planning. 3 Credits.
This course surveys the theory and methods needed in developing, planning and maintaining an interesting, comprehensive curriculum/program for preschool children. Particular attention is given to developmental theory and the integration of State standards and licensing guidelines into the curriculum. Students gain skills in working with, understanding, and meeting the needs of all young children. Various curriculum areas involving language, science, math, social studies, music, art, literacy, and drama are emphasized, along with understanding the importance of play, and of planning the development of children’s’ social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. Students also develop plans for cultural diversity and explore strategies for including families in the program. ECC and ECT students must earn a C or better in the course. Prerequisite: PSY 108 (or corequisite).

ECE 103. Home, School, And Community Relations. 3 Credits.
This course will examine the role of teacher and parent in the development, care, and education of young children. Special emphasis will be placed on improving communication skills, in order to create more effective, positive relationships among parents, teachers, and other professionals. Students will explore attitudes and communication styles that inhibit or enhance communication. Topics include understanding parents' roles; trends influencing families; characteristics of effective and ineffective communication; encouraging both direct and indirect parent involvement in the classroom and the community; cultural diversity; and working with parents in special situations, i.e., special needs, divorce, single parenting, and abusive parents. Students will study strategies to advocate for children, families, and early childhood education. ECC and ECT students must earn a C or better in the course. Prerequisites: ENG 098, FYE 101, RDG 098, or placement.

ECE 104. Infant And Toddler Development And Curriculum. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to give students information on physical, cognitive, language, and social-emotional development from birth to three years, as it relates to early childhood education. Students will become familiar with developmentally appropriate practices in infant and toddler care settings with regards to such areas as environment, care giving, and curriculum. Specific topics, such as children with special needs, parent-child interactions, and parent-teacher communications, will also be included. ECC and ECT students must earn a C or better in the course. Prerequisites: ENG 098, FYE 101, RDG 098, or placement.

ECE 105. Child Care Administration. 3 Credits.
This course examines the organization, planning, and the administering of various types of early childhood programs. Emphasis will be placed on the responsibility of the director to provide a quality program through thoughtful planning, sound fiscal management skills, and interpersonal relationships, while meeting State standards and guidelines and State licensing regulations. Topics included in the course will be funding, budgeting, evaluating, hiring, collecting fees, writing reports, and communication skills. Prerequisites: ENG 101, ECE 101.

ECE 114. Early Childhood Education Practicum I. 4 Credits.
This course provides students with practical experience (150 hours) working with children in an early childhood setting under faculty supervision. Competencies emphasized include working as a team member; developing, implementing and evaluating appropriate activities for young children; demonstrating positive guidance and communication strategies; keeping children safe and healthy; and creating and maintaining a developmentally appropriate, inclusive learning environment. Students will develop confidence and a sense of professionalism while reflecting on their teaching skills. Students will be required to develop a portfolio as a capstone project.

ECE 124. Early Childhood Education Practicum II. 4 Credits.
This course provides students with practical experience (150 hours) working with children in an early childhood setting under faculty supervision. Competencies emphasized include working as a team member; developing, implementing and evaluating appropriate activities for young children; demonstrating positive guidance and communication strategies; keeping children safe and healthy; and creating and maintaining a developmentally appropriate, inclusive learning environment. Students will develop confidence and a sense of professionalism while reflecting on their teaching skills. Students will be required to develop a portfolio as a capstone project.
Students participating in a practicum must undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check. ECC and ECT students must earn a C or better in the course. Prerequisites: ECE 114; enrollment in ECE or ECT programs.

**ECE 132. Applying Theories Of Curriculum. 3 Credits.**
This course will explore and analyze current trends, theories, and standards of curriculum in early childhood education. Emphasis will be placed on the Massachusetts Early Childhood Program Standards and Preschool Learning Guidelines and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) program standards. Students will gain a more in-depth understanding of inquiry-based teaching that reviews the value of play and the importance of cultural diversity. ECC and ECT students must earn a C or better in the course. Prerequisites: ECE 102, PSY 108.

**ECE 134. Guiding Children's Behavior. 3 Credits.**
This course helps students examine and interpret young children's behavior. Students will examine a variety of positive approaches to discipline and study how materials, environment, scheduling, appropriate speech and action all contribute to children's behavior. Students will learn effective techniques to guide children toward cooperation and positive, productive interactions with others, and develop realistic expectations of young children according to each child's developmental level. Attention is given to special accommodations designed to meet the needs of all children. ECC and ECT students must earn a C or better in the course. Prerequisite: PSY 108. Spring.

**ECE 135. Health, Safety & Nutrition in Early Childhood Settings. 3 Credits.**
This course focuses on concepts in the fields of health, safety and nutrition and their relationship to the growth and development of young children ages birth to eight. Topics include identifying safe and healthy practices and potential problem areas in childcare settings, including creating safe environments; nutrition, food safety and food allergies; and child abuse and neglect. Emphasis will be on the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care licensing regulations and state standards. This course will also examine the influence family, community and culture has on a child's health and safety. Prerequisite: ECE 101. Fall.

**ECE 250. Observation and Assessment in Early Childhood. 3 Credits.**
This course examines observation and assessment of children from birth through eight years. Formal and informal tools will be discussed with an emphasis on the connection between effective observation and documentation in collecting information regarding children's development and learning. Focus will be on the appropriate use of integrating assessments and teaching in a variety of early childhood settings. The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) regulations and National Standards will be reviewed. ECC and ECT students must earn a C or better in the course. Prerequisite: PSY 108.