

EDUCATION: EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES (ECS)

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Programs Offered

The Department of Early Childhood Studies offers a major in Early Childhood Studies, a minor in Early Childhood Studies and a Master of Arts in education with concentration in Early Childhood Education. Students may also use early childhood education courses to satisfy requirements for the Child Development Permit currently in effect for teachers of California state-funded preschool and after-school programs.

Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Studies

The Bachelor of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Studies is designed to provide graduates with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to work effectively with children in early childhood (birth to age 8). Students will study multi-disciplinary theories, research, and best practices, with an emphasis on socio-cultural factors that affect learning and development. They will learn how to use theories and research from anthropology, child development, education, health, psychology, sociology, and multicultural studies to promote the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development of diverse young children. Students will study the science of assessing children's growth and development, and they will acquire skills in effectively communicating these findings to families and community partners. The program also prepares professionals to be leaders and advocates on behalf of all children and families.

Career Opportunities

The program prepares graduates for multiple career paths, including:

- Infant, toddler, and preschool teachers
- Administrators of programs for young children and families
- Child Life Specialists
- Pre-requisite work for the multiple subjects credential for elementary school teachers

- Pre-requisite work for the special education teaching credential

Students may also work with an advisor to prepare for graduate studies in related fields such as education, human development, social work, and counseling.

Degree Requirements	Units
General education	50
Lower Division	16
Upper Division	26
Electives	28
Total units needed for graduation	120

Admission Requirements

For admissions to the major, students must have achieved:

- 2.0 GPA
- There is no prerequisite coursework for this major

Major Core Requirements (36 units)

EDEC 201 Foundations of Early Care and Education	4
EDEC 220 Observing Child Development in the First Eight Years	4
EDEC 237 Creating Environments for Young Children	4
EDEC 270 Children and Families in a Diverse Society	4
EDEC 420 Child Development in the Family, School and Community	3
EDEC 437 Integrated Curriculum in Early Childhood Classrooms	4
EDSP 432 Young Children with Special Needs	4
EDEC 435 Advocating for Children and Families	4
EDEC 460 Studying Children in Context	4
EDEC 478 Early Childhood Studies Portfolio	1

Major Electives (6 units)

EDUC 417 School and Society	3
EDMS 470 Multicultural Pedagogy	3
AMCS 339 Ethnic Groups and American Social Policy	4
AMCS 374 The Multiracial Experience	4
AMCS 445 Multiculturalism and Education	4
CALS 405 The Chicano/Latino Family	4
CALS 450 Chicano/Latino Children's Literature	4
ENSP 440 Education and the Environment	4
ENSP 442 Methods and Models in Education and the Environment	4
KIN 400 Elementary School Physical Education	3
KIN 410 Lifespan Motor Development	3
PSY 409 Social and Emotional Development	4
PSY 411 Behavioral and Emotional Problems of Children	3-4
PSY 418 Psychology of the Family	3-4
PSY 431 Introduction to Art Therapy	3-4
PSY 448 Cognitive Development	4
SOCI 345 Sociology of Families	4
SOCI 445 Sociology of Childhood and Adolescence	4

Electives should be chosen in consultation with an advisor. Students

interested in applying to the multiple subjects credential program should choose EDUC 417 and EDMS 470 as electives.

Early Childhood Studies Minor

The minor in Early Childhood Studies gives students from any major at Sonoma State University a concentration in the study of early childhood development and learning. This minor is useful for students interested in pursuing careers involving work with young children from birth through age eight in fields such as education, counseling, social work, nursing, and others. For a minor in early childhood studies, students must take five upper-division core courses in early childhood education (19 units) and an additional six units of elective courses, for a total of 25 units. Complete information about the requirements for the minor and complete application packets may be found online at www.sonoma.edu/education/lee/early-childhood/

Program Course Work

The Early Childhood Studies Minor involves 25 units of coursework: 19 units of core courses and 6 units of electives. The courses can be completed in four semesters, together with the coursework for the major.

CORE COURSES

EDEC 220 Observing Child Development in the First Eight Years	4
EDEC 237 Creating Environments for Young Children	4
EDEC 270 Children and Families in a Diverse Society	4
EDEC 420 Child Development in the Family, School and Community	3
EDSP 432 Young Children with Special Needs	4

ELECTIVE COURSES

Choose two courses from:

AMCS 339 Ethnic Groups and American Social Policy	3
AMCS 374 The Multicultural Experience	4
AMCS 445 Multiculturalism and Education	4
CALS 405 The Chicano/Latino Family	3
CALS 450 Chicano/Latino Children's Literature	3
EDEC 201 Foundations of Early Care and Education	4
EDEC 435 Leadership/Advocacy for Children/Families	4
EDEC 437 Integrated Curriculum in Early Childhood Class Rooms	4
EDEC 460 Studying Children in Context	4
EDMS 470 Multicultural Pedagogy	3
EDUC 250 Teaching in a Changing World	3
EDUC 417 School and Society	3
ENSP 440 Education and the Environment	4
ENSP 442 Methods and Models in Education and the Environment	3
KIN 400 Elementary School Physical Education	3
KIN 410 Lifespan Motor Development	3
PSY 409 Social and Emotional Development	4
PSY 411 Behavioral and Emotional Problems of Children	3
PSY 418 Psychology of the Family	3
PSY 431 Introduction to Art Therapy	3
PSY 448 Cognitive Development	4
SOCI 345 Sociology of Families	4
SOCI 445 Sociology of Childhood and Adolescence	4

Other elective courses may apply; please consult with an advisor.

Child Development Permit

The California Child Development Permit is issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). The permit is organized into different levels, each authorizing the holder to perform different levels of service in child development programs. Sonoma State University is authorized to process Child Development Permit applications at the assistant teacher, associate teacher, and teacher levels for preschool programs. Additional information and application packets are available online at www.sonoma.edu/education/lee/early-childhood/

Permit Course Work

Applicants for the Child Development Permit must complete 15 units of coursework from the following categories. Please see an Early Childhood advisor for more information.

Child Growth and Development

EDEC 220 Observing Child Development in the First Eight Years	4
EDEC 420 Child Development in the Family, School and Community	3
EDEC 532 Social-Moral Development in Childhood	3
EDEC 538 The Development of Language and Thinking, Infancy through Middle Childhood	3
PSY 302 Development of the Person	3
PSY 410 Child Development	3

Child, Family, and Community

EDEC 270 Children and Families in a Diverse Society	4
EDEC 420 Child Development in the Family, School, and Community	3
PSY 418 Psychology of the Family	3
SOCI 345 Sociology of Families	4

Early Childhood Programs/Curriculum

EDEC 237 Creating Environments for Young Children	4
EDEC 437 Integrated Curriculum in Early Childhood Classrooms	4

General Early Childhood Development

EDEC 201 Foundations of Early Care and Education	4
EDEC 460 Studying Children in Context	4
EDEC 435 Leadership and Advocacy on Behalf of Children and Families	4
EDEC 531 Play and its Role in Development and Learning	3
EDEC 535 Advocacy and Leadership on Behalf of Families and Children	3
EDSP 432 Young Children with Special Needs	4
LING 430 Language Acquisition and Communicative Development	4
PSY 411 Behavioral and Emotional Problems of Children	3
PSY 448 Cognitive Development	4

Supervised Field Experience

EDEC 220 Observing Child Development in the First Eight Years	4
EDEC 437 Integrated Curriculum in Early Childhood Classrooms	4

Master of Arts in Education - Concentration in Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education concentration of the Master of Arts in Education degree is designed to prepare teachers to work in school- and community-based programs that serve children from infancy through third grade (ages birth to age eight), and to take leadership roles in the field of early childhood education.

Required coursework focuses on advanced study of development in cognition, language, physical ability, morality, and social and emotional skills; work with diverse families and young children; and improvement of classroom curriculum and assessment from infancy through the primary grades. Candidates do not need to possess a teaching credential, since they may prepare for leadership and advocacy positions in a variety of settings. However, a basic course in child development and at least one year of experience working with children in educational settings are prerequisites for admission to the program. Complete information about the program is available online at www.sonoma.edu/education/leee/early-childhood/

Program Coursework

The total number of units of the program varies from 30-36 semester units, depending on the culminating path selected by the students. The following is a list of the courses that Early Childhood Education master's candidates take.

Education Core (6 units in EDUC courses)

EDUC 570 Reflective Educator	3
EDUC 571 Research Paradigms in Education	3

Required ECE Core Courses in Concentration (12 units)

EDEC 531 The Role of Play in Development and Learning offered fall of odd numbered years	3
EDEC 532 Social-Moral Development in Childhood offered fall of even numbered years	3
EDEC 535 Advocacy and Leadership on Bahalf of Families and Children	3
EDEC 538 The Development of Language and Thinking in Infancy through Middle Childhood offered spring of even numbered years	3

PLUS

Electives (6 units)

At least two courses in the areas of special education, curriculum teaching and learning, reading and language, and/or special topics ECE-M.A. courses as offered will be chosen in consultation with the ECE advisor and the graduate advisors of the above mentioned areas. Some examples of course options are:

Special Education

EDSP 422 Collaborative Partnerships in Special Education	4
EDSP 423 Assessment, Curriculum and Instructional Strategies	3
EDSP 432 Designing Inclusive Environments in Early Childhood Education	4

Curriculum Teaching and Learning

EDCT 585 Curriculum Development: Theory, Practice and Evaluation	3
EDCT 586 Teaching and Learning: Research and Application in the Classroom	3

Reading and Language

EDRL 507 Research in Language and Literacy	3
EDRL 521A Language Development in First and Second Languages	3
EDRL 524 Literature and Literacy	3