

# EDUCATION: EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES (ECS)

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## Programs Offered

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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 for teachers of California state-funded preschool and after-school programs.

## Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Studies

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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 study multi-disciplinary theories, research, and best practices, with an emphasis on socio-cultural factors that affect learning and development. They 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 study the science of assessing children's growth and development, and they 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.

## Concentrations

When students declare a major in Early Childhood Studies, they must choose a concentration in either Early Childhood Education or Early Childhood Development.

## Career Opportunities

### Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education concentration prepares students for a career in an early education setting, including:

- Infant, toddler, and preschool teacher
- Administrator of an early education program
- Support services in agencies that serve young children and families
- Elementary teacher (requires completion of a post-baccalaureate Multiple Subject credential program)
- Special Education teacher (requires completion of a post baccalaureate Special Education credential program)

### Early Childhood Development

The Early Childhood Development concentration prepares students for a career working with young children and families in non-education settings. Students work with an advisor to prepare for a career in entry level positions in social services or for graduate school in counseling, social work, child life specialist, etc.

Degree Requirements	Units
General Education	44-47
Lower Division	16-17
Upper Division	26-27
Electives	30-33

## Admission Requirements

For admissions to the major, students must have a GPA of 2.5 and have completed 3 units of approved coursework in child development/early childhood education, with a grade of C+ or better.

## Goals of the Early Childhood Studies Major

The goals of the Early Childhood Studies major are aligned with the mission of the SSU School of Education and the mission of the Department of Early Childhood Studies. The Early Childhood program seeks to prepare graduates who:

1. Are agents of individual growth and social change as well as models and advocates of the broader intellectual and social values of a democratic society.
2. Are knowledgeable and thoughtful about the field of early childhood studies.
3. Promote physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and moral growth and learning in their professional work with young children, as well as respecting and encouraging the contributions of families and caregivers in the care and education of children and youth.

4. Design and carry out inclusive practices that respect human differences and aim to include all children and families.
5. Continually use inquiry, observation, study, and reflection to improve their professional practices.

## Student Learning Outcomes

### **Concentration 1: Early Childhood Education**

**SL01:** Students are knowledgeable about theories and research related to child development and growth, and they are able to effectively promote child development and learning.

**SL02:** Students understand the components and importance of building family and community relationships in work with young children.

**SL03:** Students understand the importance of and are able to observe, document, and assess the growth and development of young children; students are able to effectively communicate these findings to families.

**SL04:** Students know how to use developmentally and culturally appropriate and effective approaches with young children, and they reflect upon professional practices.

**SL05:** Students design, implement, and evaluate effective curriculum that aligns with state early learning standards for children in programs serving infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

**SL06:** Students see themselves as professionals and exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and dispositions: understanding and upholding ethical and professional standards; engaging in continuous, collaborative learning to inform practice; understanding where to find professional resources; integrating informed and critical perspectives into their work with young children; and engaging in informed advocacy for young children and their families.

**SL07:** Students observe and practice their developing skills in different kinds of early childhood educational settings.

### **Concentration 2: Early Childhood Development**

**SL01:** Students are knowledgeable about theories and research related to child development and growth, and they are able to effectively promote practices that support optimal child development and health (including mental health).

**SL02:** Students understand the components and importance of building family and community relationships in work with young children.

**SL03:** Students understand the importance of and are able to observe, document, and assess the growth and development of young children; students are able to effectively communicate these findings to families.

**SL04:** Students know how to use developmentally and culturally appropriate and effective approaches with young children, and they reflect upon professional practices.

**SL05:** Students identify and evaluate effective practices in programs that promote and protect development and health of infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and children in the middle childhood years.

**SL06:** Students see themselves as professionals and exhibit the following knowledge, skills, and dispositions: understanding and upholding ethical and professional standards; engaging in continuous, collaborative learning to inform practice; understanding where to find professional resources; integrating informed and critical perspectives into their work with young children; and engaging in informed advocacy for young children and their families.

**SL07:** Students observe and practice their developing skills in different kinds of programs that support children and families.

## Program Coursework

### **Major Core Requirements (both concentrations, 28 units)**

EDEC 178 Introduction to ECS Major and Portfolio	1
EDEC 201 Foundations of Early Care and Education	4
EDEC 220 Observing Child Development in the First Eight Years	4
EDEC 270 Children and Families in Diverse Societies	4
EDEC 420 Child Development in the Family, School, and Community	3
EDSP 432 Young Children with Special Needs	4
EDEC 435 Advocating for Children and Families	4
EDEC 460 Introduction to Research in Early Childhood Studies	4
EDEC 478 Early Childhood Studies Portfolio	1

### **Early Childhood Education Concentration Requirements (8 units)**

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

### **Child Development Concentration Requirements (8 units)**

EDEC 247 Physical Development and Health in Childhood	3
EDEC 347 Community Services for Children and Families	2
EDEC 447 Children's Emotional Development and Health	3

### **Major Electives (both concentrations, 6 units)**

EDEC 490 Special Topics in Early Childhood Studies	1-4
EDMS 419 Identity and Agency for Socially Just Classrooms and Communities	3
EDSS 418 Developmental in Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood	3
EDUC 417 School and Society	3
AMCS 339 Ethnic Groups and American Social Policy	3
AMCS 445 Multiculturalism and Education	4
CALS 403 Chicano/Latino Youth and Adolescents	3-4
CALS 405 The Chicano/Latino Family	3-4
CALS 450 Chicano/Latino Children's Literature	3-4
CALS 456 Latinos and Education	4
KIN 400 Elementary School Physical Education	3
KIN 427 Individuals with Disabilities in Educational and Recreational Settings	3
PSY 409 Social and Emotional Development	4
PSY 411 Behavioral and Emotional Problems of Children	4
PSY 414 Infant Development	4
PSY 418 Psychology of the Family	4
PSY 431 Introduction to Art Therapy	4

PSY 448 Cognitive Development	4	EDEC 490 Special Topics	1-4
SOCI 345 Sociology of Families	4	EDMS 419 Identity and Agency for Socially Just Classrooms and Communities	3
SOCI 445 Sociology of Childhood and Adolescence	4	EDUC 250 Teaching in a Changing World	3
<i>Electives should be chosen in consultation with an advisor. Students intending to apply to the Multiple Subjects Credential program should choose EDMS 419 and EDUC 417 as electives.</i>			
		EDUC 417 School and Society	3
		KIN 400 Elementary School Physical Education	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

## 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 application packets may be found online at [www.sonoma.edu/education/ecs/index.html](http://www.sonoma.edu/education/ecs/index.html)

### Program Course Work

The Early Childhood Studies Minor involves 25 units of coursework: 19 units of core courses and 6 units of electives.

#### 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 247 Physical Development and Health in Childhood	3
EDEC 405 iPlay: Child development in the Digital Age	3
EDEC 406 Positive guidance	3
EDEC 407 Multicultural Childrens Literature	3
EDEC 408 Science, Literacy, and Play: Exploring the Natural World with Young Children	3
EDEC 409 Play in Early Childhood	3
EDEC 410 Language Development	3
EDEC 411 Infant and Toddler Development	3
EDEC 412 Brain Development	3
EDEC 435 Leadership/Advocacy for Children/Families	4
EDEC 437 Integrated Curriculum in Early Childhood Class Rooms	4
EDEC 447 Children's Emotional Development and Health	3
EDEC 460 Introduction to Research in ECS	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.

### 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 Introduction to Research in ECS	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
EDEC 490 Special Topics	1-4
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. A basic course in child development and 45 hours 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/ecs/index.html](http://www.sonoma.edu/education/ecs/index.html)

### **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 Behalf of Families and Children	3
EDEC 538 Cognitive and Language Development 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:

<b>Special Education</b>	
EDSP 422 Collaborative Partnerships in Special Education	4
EDSP 423 Assessment, Curriculum and Instructional Strategies	3
EDSP 432 Young Children with Special Needs	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

## **Early Childhood Education Certificate**

Designed for working professionals, the ECE Certificate is a 12-unit, one-year fully online program created to provide essential professional development for early childhood education providers and program directors, transitional kindergarten teachers, and early elementary teachers. The Certificate qualifies students for the Site Supervisor California Child Development Permit (and all levels below), as well as meets the new ECE requirements for transitional kindergarten teachers. (Please note: the Certificate does not qualify holders to teach in special education classrooms.)

This Summer-start, Special Sessions program is a partnership between the School of Education and the School of Extended & International Education (SEIE). As a self-support program, unique, separate fees are charged on a per-unit basis for all courses required for this program. These fees are set annually by the SSU President. Information about fees, admission requirements, and student support services is available through SEIE. Academic criteria for the program are determined in accordance with all applicable SSU and CSU policies. Certificates are awarded by the School of Education.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students use advanced theory and research to develop teaching strategies and curriculum for existing work settings or in approved field sites. Students will

- Extend their understanding of children's characteristics and needs and the multiple interacting influences on children's development and learning
- Create environments that are healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging for each child
- Recognize the importance of and complex characteristics of children's families and communities; foster respectful, reciprocal relationships that support and empower families and engage them in their children's development and learning
- Understand the goals, benefits, and uses of assessment; use effective assessment strategies in partnership with families and other professionals to positively influence the development of every child

- Design, implement, and evaluate a meaningful, challenging curriculum that promotes comprehensive developmental and learning outcomes for every young child.

### Requirements for Admission

Prospective students must have the following:

- A Bachelor's degree in any subject, completed no later than the Fall semester previous to admission;
- A GPA of at least 2.75 (B-) over the last 60 units;
- At least one 3-unit course on child development theory and milestones at a 3.0 (B) or better; and
- Regular access to high-speed internet service and webcam capability
- Ability to work in an online environment

### Requirements for Certificate

EDEC 531 The Role of Play in Development & Learning	3
EDEC 532 Social and Moral Development	3
EDEC 538 Cognitive Language Development in Early Childhood	3
EDEC 547 Advanced Field Experience	3
<b>Total units needed for the Certificate</b>	<b>12</b>

All certificate courses must be completed with a C or better. Students who complete the ECE Certificate and are subsequently accepted into the SSU program leading to a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education may apply the Certificate courses EDEC 531, 532, and 538 towards partial fulfillment of the requirements for that program. *To be accepted for this purpose, these classes must be completed with a grade of B or better.* Please note there is a seven-year limit on coursework that can be counted for a Master's degree, so plan accordingly. Students wishing to use these units toward other Master's programs should consult with their target institution.

### Application and Contact Information

For application and contact information, please visit the website for the Early Childhood Education Online Certificate Program:  
<https://web.sonoma.edu/exed/ece-certificate/>.

## Sample Four-Year Program for Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Studies: Development Concentration

### FRESHMAN YEAR: 29 Units

#### Fall Semester (14 Units)

GE Area A2 (4)  
 GE Area A3 (4)  
 GE Area B4 (3)  
 University Elective (3)

#### Spring Semester (15 Units)

GE Area C3 (4)  
 GE Area B1 (4)  
 GE Area D2 (3)  
 University Elective (3)  
 EDEC 178 (1)

### SOPHOMORE YEAR: 31 Units

#### Fall Semester (16 Units)

EDEC 201 (4)  
 EDEC 220 (4)  
 GE Area B2 (4)  
 University Elective (4)

#### Spring Semester (15 Units)

EDEC 247 (3)  
 EDEC 270 (4)  
 GE Area C2 (4)  
 GE Area B3 (4)

### JUNIOR YEAR: 30 Units

#### Fall Semester (14 Units)

EDEC 347 (2)  
 EDEC 420 (E) (3)  
 GE Area D3 (3)  
 Major elective 1 (3)  
 University Elective (3)

#### Spring Semester (16 Units)

EDEC 447 (3)  
 EDEC 435 (4)  
 University Elective (3)  
 GE Area D4 (3)  
 University Elective (3)

### SENIOR YEAR: 30 Units

#### Fall Semester (16 Units)

EDEC 460 (4)  
 GE Area C1 (4)  
 GE Area D5 (4)  
 EDSP 432 (4)

#### Spring Semester (14 Units)

EDEC 478 (1)  
 Major Elective 2 (3)  
 GE Area D1 (3)  
 University Elective (3)  
 University Elective (4)

### TOTAL UNITS: 120

*\* Please note that this is a sample plan only. You are not guaranteed access into a specific course during any given semester; thus you will need to adjust your plan as you make progress through the major.*



## Sample Four-Year Program for Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Studies: Education Concentration

### FRESHMAN YEAR: 29 Units

<i>Fall Semester (14 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (15 Units)</i>
GE Area A2 (4)	GE Area C3 (4)
GE Area A3 (4)	GE Area B1 (4)
GE Area B4 (3)	GE Area D2 (3)
University Elective (3)	University Elective (3)
	EDEC 178 (1)

### SOPHOMORE YEAR: 31 Units

<i>Fall Semester (16 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (15 Units)</i>
EDEC 201 (4)	EDEC 237 (4)
EDEC 220 (4)	University Elective 4
GE Area B2 (4)	GE Area C2 (4)
University Elective (4)	GE Area D3 (3)

### JUNIOR YEAR: 30 Units

<i>Fall Semester (16 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (14 Units)</i>
EDEC 420 (E) (3)	EDEC 437 (4)
GE Area B3 (4)	EDEC 435 (4)
Major Elective 1 (3)	University Elective (3)
University Elective (3)	GE Area D4 (3)
University Elective (3)	

### SENIOR YEAR: 30 Units

<i>Fall Semester (16 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (14 Units)</i>
EDEC 460 (4)	EDEC 478 (1)
GE Area C1 (4)	Major Elective 2 (3)
GE Area D5 (4)	GE Area D1 (3)
EDSP 432 (4)	University Elective (3)
	University Elective (4)

### TOTAL UNITS: 120

*\* Please note that this is a sample plan only. You are not guaranteed access into a specific course during any given semester; thus you will need to adjust your plan as you make progress through the major.*