Early Childhood (ECE) Courses

ECE 5123. Seminar in Infancy and Toddler Development. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: EDP 5003 or consent of instructor. Examines the developmental milestones of infants and toddlers and the optimal environments needed for them to thrive. Identifies critical developmental issues related to early intervention. Discussion of appropriate instructional practice, observational assessment, and parental involvement.

ECE 5133. Language and Discourse Development in Preschool–Primary Children. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Study of early acquisition and development of language skills. Emphasis on identifying the sequence of normal expressive and receptive language development in terms of the child’s related abilities and learning experiences. Language acquisition and discourse in linguistically and culturally diverse children. Identification of atypical patterns of language development.

ECE 5443. Guidance of Social/Emotional Development in Children. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Study of children’s socioemotional development in early childhood and elementary settings. Emphasis on how development and learning influence social competence. Focus on how guidance can assist children in building positive relationships, positive sense of self, resiliency, peer relationships, self-discipline, and prosocial behaviors. (Formerly ECE 5453. Credit cannot be earned for both ECE 5443 and ECE 5453.)

ECE 5503. Theoretical Foundations of Early Childhood and Elementary Education. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Opportunity is provided for a systematic analysis of theoretical foundations of early childhood and elementary education, including an application of theoretical principles to instructional objectives, organizational schemes, teaching strategies, and materials. (Credit cannot be earned for both ECE 5503 and C&I 5503.)

ECE 5513. Curriculum, Methods and Materials in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
A study of curriculum and instructional methods in diverse early childhood and elementary classrooms. Emphasis on planning and curriculum design, methods of instruction and materials for teaching at the level of student ability.

ECE 6123. Leadership and Administration of Early Childhood Programs. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. This course is designed for those who are interested in managing the care and education of young children in various contexts, including community child care and public school settings. Students explore the various components related to administration of early childhood programs in inclusive settings including leadership and advocacy, human resource management, curriculum development, strategic planning, parental involvement, and legal issues.

ECE 6163. Biological Basis of Child Development: Brain Based Research and Learning. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: One course in general biology or general psychology or consent of instructor. Analysis of biological and psychological perspectives on child growth and development. Emphasis on theoretical aspects of biopsychological and social and cultural factors influencing cognitive and learning functions.

ECE 6183. Seminar in Early Childhood Education in Cross-Cultural Perspective. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. An examination of contrasting strategies of socialization employed by societies around the world, past and present; limit of and alternatives to formal early childhood education in the current Western sense. Readings are drawn from ethnographic and theoretical sources in anthropology, psychology, and education.

ECE 6213. Current Issues in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Studies of current issues in preschools and elementary schools and other educational settings. Investigation of research, practices, and positions related to the issues studied. Exploration of available models for possible solutions or resolution of issues, as well as factors that may have an impact on desired outcomes.

ECE 6303. Advanced Methods in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: C&I 5003 or consent of instructor. Specialized studies in early childhood and elementary education are offered through course section in these areas: Science; Mathematics; Social Studies; Literacy; Fine and Performing Arts; Nutrition and Health. May be repeated for credit when curriculum areas vary.

ECE 6363. Differentiated Instruction in a Diverse Classroom. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Application of instructional strategies for promoting the learning of diverse groups of children in typical classrooms. Implementing teaching strategies and techniques matched to individual learners, characteristics of subject matter and demands of the learning environment. Emphasis on acquiring a variety of teaching strategies to differentiate instruction within a social learning environment. (Formerly ECE 5473 and ECE 6373. Credit cannot be earned for more than one of the following: ECE 5473, ECE 6363, or ECE 6373.)

ECE 6423. Advanced Studies in Play. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
This course focuses on the examination and analysis of play research as it relates to different areas of young children’s development including cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and linguistic—birth through age eight. Examination of play theories, the role of the adult as facilitators of play, and contexts of play for all children including culturally and linguistically diverse children and children with special needs.

ECE 6453. Assessment and Evaluation in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Evaluation and research on student development and learning, educational programs, processes, products, instructional objectives, and alternative approaches to attain objectives. A disciplined inquiry into trends and issues in assessment and evaluation in early childhood and elementary education.

ECE 6473. Seminar in Early Childhood and Elementary Education Research. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examination of research topics in early childhood and elementary education, including an extensive study of methodology, research findings, and publications applied to early childhood and elementary programs.

ECE 6523. Social Policy for Families and Children. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examination of social policy and its implications for communities, families, and children. Students analyze national, state, and local policy for educational settings and investigate local and regional resources for the teaching and learning process.
ECE 6653. Action Research in Childhood Settings. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: EDU 5003. This is a capstone course restricted to students in their last semester of the program. Advisor code required. Application of research concepts and skills in field studies. Participants conduct directed research in early childhood and elementary school settings. (Formerly ECE 6643. Credit cannot be earned for both ECE 6653 and ECE 6643. Credit cannot be earned for both ECE 6653 and C&I 6103.).

ECE 6723. Integrating Technology and Multimodal Digital Literacies Across the Early Childhood Elementary Curriculum. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
An investigation into the design and use of innovative technological tools and instructional techniques across the early childhood and elementary education curriculum. Opportunities for design and use of educational experiences for children incorporating technological innovations. Includes use of technology to customize instruction to meet the individual learning needs of children.

ECE 6753. Metacognitive Thinking and Learning Strategies in Childhood Settings. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
An exploration of metacognition in personal and school environments, where an understanding of one’s own thinking and learning strategies assist in defining strengths and areas of growth in teaching. An emphasis is made on the development of critical pedagogical thinking and teaching, and its unification of elements into classroom practice that has meaning-making applications for all life situations. (Formerly ECE 5523. Same as C&I 5523. Credit cannot be earned for more than one of the following: ECE 5523, ECE 6753, or C&I 5523.).

ECE 6943. Instructional Internship in Teaching. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of student’s graduate advisor. Individually supervised full-time field experience in assigned classrooms for one semester (12 weeks) with related applied research activity. May be taken for teaching internship or student teaching. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 hours may be applied toward the M.A. in Education degree.

ECE 6946. Instructional Internship in Teaching. (0-0) 6 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of student’s graduate advisor. Individually supervised full-time field experience in assigned classrooms for one semester (12 weeks) with related applied research activity. May be taken for teaching internship or student teaching. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 hours may be applied toward the M.A. in Education degree.

ECE 6951. Independent Study. (0-0) 1 Credit Hour.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission in writing (form available) of the instructor and the student’s Graduate Advisor of Record. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. For students needing specialized work not normally or not often available as part of the regular course offerings. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to the M.A. in Education degree.

ECE 6953. Independent Study. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission in writing (form available) of the instructor and the student’s Graduate Advisor of Record. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. For students needing specialized work not normally or not often available as part of the regular course offerings. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to the M.A. in Education degree.

ECE 6973. Special Problems. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. An organized course offering the opportunity for specialized study not normally or not often available as part of the regular course offerings. Special Problems courses may be repeated for credit when topics vary, but not more than 6 hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to the M.A. in Education degree.

ECE 6983. Master’s Thesis. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Permission of the Graduate Advisor of Record and thesis director. Thesis research and preparation. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 hours will apply to the Master’s degree. Credit will be awarded upon completion of the thesis. Enrollment is required each term in which the thesis is in progress.

ECE 7123. Cognitive Development in Early Childhood. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Theories and research of cognitive and intellectual development in early childhood within sociocultural contexts. Implications for early childhood programs, environments, learning and teaching.