

484: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

In Workflow

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Approval Path

- a. Mon, 24 Oct 2022 14:49:50 GMT
Debbie Rappaport (fjs556): Approved for SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison
- b. Mon, 24 Oct 2022 15:48:26 GMT
Zaid Haddad (sll364): Approved for ILT UG Curriculum Committee Chair
- c. Mon, 24 Oct 2022 15:57:43 GMT
Ann Marie Ryan (emh355): Approved for ILT Chair
- d. Tue, 25 Oct 2022 16:11:21 GMT
Steve Wilkerson (cbe561): Approved for Program Data Analysis
- e. Fri, 04 Nov 2022 21:28:45 GMT
Mario Torres (bij097): Approved for EH Dean
- f. Wed, 09 Nov 2022 14:06:20 GMT
Steve Wilkerson (cbe561): Approved for Program Data Analysis
- g. Sat, 26 Nov 2022 15:31:22 GMT
John Davis (eov723): Approved for EH UG Curriculum Committee Chair
- h. Wed, 30 Nov 2022 18:19:04 GMT
Heather Trepal (krz694): Approved for EH Associate Dean of UG Studies
- i. Wed, 30 Nov 2022 19:11:06 GMT
Linyi Zhou (gqq137): Approved for EH Financial Lead
- j. Wed, 30 Nov 2022 19:43:51 GMT
Mario Torres (bij097): Approved for EH Dean
- k. Tue, 13 Dec 2022 22:23:33 GMT
Brian McNamara (oks933): Approved for Academic Affairs Financial Lead
- l. Tue, 13 Dec 2022 23:45:54 GMT
Heather Shipley (isg537): Approved for UG Vice Provost
- m. Wed, 11 Jan 2023 17:21:59 GMT
Debbie Rappaport (fjs556): Approved for Academic Council Agenda Item Review

n. Wed, 11 Jan 2023 17:40:08 GMT
Heather Shipley (isg537): Approved for UG Academic Council Approval

New Program Proposal

Date Submitted: Mon, 24 Oct 2022 13:25:35 GMT

Viewing: 484 : Early Childhood Education Certificate

Last edit: Wed, 11 Jan 2023 17:21:51 GMT

Changes proposed by: Ann Marie Ryan (emh355)

Administrative Information

Submitter Information

Name

Ann Marie Ryan

Email

annmarie.ryan@utsa.edu

Title

ILT Department Chair

Department

Interdisc Learning & Teaching

Select Not Applicable for Department if this is a College Level Program. Then select the appropriate college.

College

Education & Human Development

Effective Catalog Edition

2024-2025

Is this an academic agreement with another entity outside UTSA?

No

New Program Proposal

Program Name

Early Childhood Education Certificate

Desired Implementation Date

Fall 2024

Program Type

Undergraduate Certificate

Program Level

Undergraduate

CIP Code

131210 - Early Childhood Education and Teaching.

Percent of new courses for the degree

0% - repackaging of existing courses

Method of Delivery

Face-to-Face (51-100% in person)

New Program Development Questions

Mission: Describe how the credential/degree aligns with the institutional mission or institutional strategic plan.

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) certificate is grounded in principles of child development. Emphasis is placed on developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate instruction for young learners (NAEYC, 2021). This certificate's curriculum

is based on five premises that will help early childhood educators develop an in-depth knowledge of cognitive, linguistic, physical, and socio-emotional development, as well as appropriate teaching and learning practices. Specifically, the ECE certificate focuses on the early learning experiences of very young children (birth to age 8) of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and examines the following: 1) developmentally appropriate practices; 2) collaboration with diverse families and 3) play and learning; 4) early language and literacy development 5) advocacy in early childhood settings. The curriculum for this certificate aligns with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation.

Demonstrated need: Provide evidence of the job market and workforce need for the proposed credential/degree (include Lightcast and other workforce related data). Consider the impact of the program title on recruitment (SEO/SEM).

First, in Texas, early learning initiatives have increased the number of individuals who pursue some type of credential that will qualify them to work with very young children. Teacher certification across the state focuses on early childhood (mostly prekindergarten) through 6th grade. Although the state now offers an early childhood program, (EC-3rd grade) UTSA has opted to only offer the EC-6th grade certification. Most students who pursue the state teacher certification decide to teach in public-school districts. However, there are other opportunities outside of the school districts that are focusing on the well-being of very young children (birth through 5) and that requires a strong background in early childhood theory and practice. A certificate in Early Childhood Education will allow for more possible job opportunities. For example, organizations such as Head Start, PK4SA, the San Antonio Children's Museum, PBS/KLRN, the San Antonio Zoo, private and public child development centers, family care centers, Early Childhood Intervention Services, Easter Seals, AVANCE, Family Services Association, therapy centers that focus on young children with special needs as well agencies supported by the United Way require potential employees to have an emphasis in Early Childhood Education, particularly focusing on culturally and linguistically diverse children. Possible jobs across the US that a certificate in early childhood will help individuals obtain include infant, toddler, or preschool teacher, child development center director, project coordinator, parent coordinator or educator, homebased family childcare, and home visitor, among many others. Second, there are approximately 73.7 million children in the United States; 25.6% are Latinos (Children's Defend Fund, 2020). Statistics show that by the year 2060, Latinos will comprise 31% of the population (US Census, 2021). Early experiences set children's lifetime trajectory (NASEM, 2019). Research tells us that the brain develops rapidly in the earliest years and that enriching early learning experiences are critical for children's long-term educational and life success (Shonkoff et al., 2012). Hence, we must ensure that communities work together to examine existing and innovative ways to enhance the quality of childhood experiences for young children. Access to quality early learning experiences, particularly for Latino and African American children who live in poverty, is essential for their development. Research has shown that between the ages of 2 and 4, early learning center-based experiences seem to be the key to cognitive growth up to the age of seven (Bassok, French, Fuller & Kagan, 2008). Highly qualified early childhood educators are crucial if a center or organization is going to provide quality early learning experiences.

Student demand: Provide evidence of both short-term and long-term student demand for the credential/degree.

In response to such initiatives, along with UTSA's mission to be a catalyst for change in the community, the ECE certificate will help individuals gain the knowledge required to create quality early learning experiences, particularly for culturally and linguistically diverse young children. Most universities in Texas offer Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) degrees that lead to teacher certification for those students interested in teaching in the public schools that serve prekindergarten-6th grade, none with a study abroad program working with one of the best ECE institutions in the world. The ECE certificate is designed for those students who want early childhood content to work in different settings that focus on Early Childhood Education (birth - age 8) but are not interested in teacher certification. This might include students seeking a degree focusing on Special Education or English as a Second Language. This might also include students seeking careers in social sciences such as social work, criminal justice, or psychology.

Existing Programs: Demonstrate the relationship between the proposed program and existing programs and any potential effects on enrollment for existing programs.

The five courses offered within the ECE certificate are either existing courses within the EC-6th certification program or existing courses in the department. Given that students pursuing this certificate are not looking for teacher certification, we do not anticipate a negative effect on existing programs. We believe students pursuing the ECE certificate will increase enrollment in these existing courses

Faculty availability: Provide information on appropriately-credentialed faculty available to teach courses in the program or a plan to hire additional faculty to support the program if applicable.

We have five full-time tenured and tenure track faculty on our faculty in the area of early childhood education who are credentialed and qualified to teach these courses within the certification.

- Iliana Alanís, Ph.D., Professor
- María Arreguín, Ed.D., Professor
- María Leija, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
- Rica Ramírez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
- John Sutterby, Ph.D., Associate Professor

The ECE certificate will consist of 15 hours of existing courses that are currently being offered in the ILT department. No new courses are needed but as enrollment grows we anticipate adding sections our current FTT faculty who are also qualified and credentialed in this area would be able to teach.

Curriculum: Discuss or provide outline of the curriculum designed to build workforce-specific skills and knowledge, including new courses that will be needed. Describe what career-engaged learning experiences are incorporated in the curriculum to prepare students for the intended workforce.

The ECE certificate comprises five undergraduate courses, for a total of 15 semester credit hours. Three of these courses are currently offered in our undergraduate EC-6th grade certification program in the Department of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching and constitute the core of the early childhood coursework. The two additional courses provide prospective students the opportunity to learn about special populations, namely dual language learners and children with special needs. Students will also get an opportunity to study abroad in partnership with the University of Jyväskylä, in Finland, known for their world-renowned early childhood education programs. (This is an option for those students who wish to go.) Finland is ranked #1 in the world for overall worldwide educating for the future (The Economist, 2019). This certificate will serve to increase the knowledge base of individuals seeking roles in the early childhood profession, particularly in diverse learning spaces.

Course	Course Title	Offered
BBL 4043	Dual Language Education in Early Childhood	fall
ECE 3143	Child Growth and Development	summer, fall, spring
ECE 3313	Play, Creativity, & Learning	summer, fall, spring
ECE 3603	Language and Literacy Development	summer, fall, spring
ECE 4153	Culturally Appropriate Assessment Infants/Children	spring

Workforce: Discuss how relevant workforce representatives from business, industry, non-profits, etc. have been involved/consulted in the creation and design of the program. Describe the planned ongoing engagement after program launch to review and revise program curriculum.

The need for qualified early childhood educators are also based on the demand for childcare. Childcare arrangements are the norm—not the exception for many families in America (Laughlin, 2013). Families often struggle to find appropriate childcare to be part of the workforce. Families who choose not to send their children to a childcare center and who may decide to leave children with friends or family members also need different services that focus on young children. Organizations that focus on young children and families need qualified individuals knowledgeable in the principles of Early Childhood Education to meet the needs of families and young children.

Program Assessment and Evaluation: Clearly articulate the program objectives and a plan to assess student outcomes. The department/school or other unit overseeing the program of study should have a continuous improvement process in place that informs curriculum revision to better achieve the objectives of the program.

The ECE certificate will be a part of the EC-6th grade program in the ILT Department and therefore each course is held to the SACSCOC and TEA standards of continuous improvement. Each semester/year lead faculty meet with instructors to evaluate how their courses met the goals of the program(s), the larger entities we are accountable to, and the needs of their students. Any adjustments that need to be made are done with these guidelines in mind.

Costs and Revenues: (done with AA Financial and Administrative Team) Provide a business plan proforma that lays out the anticipated costs of the program, the anticipated revenues and any new investments needed to meet all costs, including instruction, outreach/marketing, administration, etc.

Students choosing to obtain a certificate in ECE will select to do so because they want to work with young children in various settings. We predict that in two years, the number of students selecting an ECE certificate would be approximately 10, with an increase to 20 students in three years. We hope to achieve about 40 students in five years. Since the emphasis on early learning has gained momentum across the country, we predict that students will want to obtain this certificate in a field that will allow them to select from a variety of career options.

Given these enrollment projections, we do not anticipate that the department will incur additional costs in the near future. Students in this certification will be absorbed into existing sections of existing courses.

Attach File

ECE_certificate_proposal_FINAL.docx

Is this a new doctoral program?

No

Degree Credit Hours

15

Catalog Integration

Catalog Integration: Provide a description of the program, including any program-specific or department-specific admission requirements.

The undergraduate Early Childhood Education (ECE) Certificate's curriculum is based on five premises that will help early childhood educators develop an in-depth knowledge of cognitive, linguistic, physical, and socio-emotional development, as well as appropriate teaching and learning practices. It enables undergraduates from across the university to pursue a coursework program that concentrates on the early learning experiences of very young children (birth to age 8) of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds

and examines the following: 1) developmentally appropriate practices; 2) collaboration with diverse families and 3) play and learning; 4) early language and literacy development 5) advocacy in early childhood settings. The curriculum for this certificate aligns with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation. Students pursuing the ECE Certificate must complete 15 semester credit hours in Early Childhood courses.

Admission Requirements: An undergraduate wishing to enroll in the Early Childhood Education certificate program should contact the Certificate Program Advisor and request permission to enter into the program. An approval is needed to enter into the certificate program and must be granted by the Certificate Program Advisor and the Dean of the college in which the certificate program is housed.

Degree Requirements – For undergraduate programs, list the required/core courses, general education courses, and prescribed and free elective courses for the program, along with total semester credit hours required. For graduate programs, list the required/core courses, support courses, approved elective courses, thesis/non-thesis option (master’s) and doctoral requirements for the program, along with total semester credit hours required.

The ECE certificate comprises five undergraduate courses, for a total of 15 semester credit hours. Three of these courses are currently offered in our undergraduate EC-6th grade certification program in the Department of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching and constitute the core of the early childhood coursework. The two additional courses provide prospective students the opportunity to learn about special populations, namely dual language learners and children with special needs. This certificate will serve to increase the knowledge base of individuals seeking roles in the early childhood profession, particularly in diverse learning spaces.

Course	Course Title	Offered
BBL 4043	Dual Language Education in Early Childhood (3hrs)	fall
ECE 3143	Child Growth and Development (3hrs)	summer, fall, spring
ECE 3313	Play, Creativity, & Learning (3hrs)	summer, fall, spring
ECE 3603	Language and Literacy Development (3hrs)	summer, fall, spring
ECE 4153	Culturally Appropriate Assessment Infants/Children (3hrs)	spring

Supporting Documentation and Review

Attach File

Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Teaching (13_1210)-all data.pdf

UT System and THECB Requirements for this Proposal/Notes

The certificate does not require UT System or THECB approval. Also, the file uploaded is the old pre-proposal template. We no longer require signatures. The CL workflow indicates approvals.

SACSCOC Requirements for this Proposal/Notes

The certificate does not require SACSCOC approval or notification

Reviewer Comments

Debbie Rappaport (fjs556) (Wed, 11 Jan 2023 17:21:51 GMT): approved at the Jan. 11, 2023 Academic Council meeting.

Key: 484