

Early Childhood Studies at UF

University of Florida School of Special Education, School Psychology, & Early Childhood Studies



WHO WE ARE

Our programs are designed to meet the needs of traditional undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students, as well as working professionals who have a passion for young children and their families. We prepare practitioners and researchers for the exciting field of early childhood studies. Students learn about developmentally appropriate and evidence-based practices to support the learning and development of diverse young children and their families.

OUR PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

<p>5-Year Bachelor's-to-Master's</p> <p>Results in a Bachelor of Arts in Education in Special Education and a Master's of Education in Early Childhood Education</p>	<p>Traditional Master's</p> <p>Results in a Master's of Arts in Early Childhood Education</p>	<p>Doctoral Concentration</p> <p>Results in a Ph.D. in Special Education or School Psychology with a Concentration in Early Childhood Studies</p>
<p>Doctoral Minor</p> <p>Results in a Minor in Early Childhood Studies for PhD Students at the University of Florida</p>	<p>Graduate Certificate</p> <p>Results in a Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Studies</p>	

<https://education.ufl.edu/early-childhood-education/>

OUR FACULTY



Maureen Conroy, Ph.D.
Professor & Anita Zucker Endowed Professor
Early Childhood Studies
Early Intervention
Social-Emotional Learning & Behavioral Challenges
Autism Spectrum Disorders



Kristen Kemple, Ph.D.
Professor
Early Childhood Studies
Social and Emotional Learning in Early Childhood
Early Childhood Teacher Education
The Role of Play in Learning and Development



Tara Mathien, Ed.S.
Clinical Assistant Professor
Early Childhood Education
Child Development and Administration
Curriculum and Instruction Leadership



Mary McLean, Ph.D.
Professor
Early Childhood Studies
Early Intervention
Early Childhood Assessment
Family Centered Practice



Brian Reichow, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Early Childhood Special Education
Autism Spectrum Disorders
Evidence-based Practice



Tina Smith-Bonahue, Ph.D.
Graduate Coordinator & Associate Professor
Early Childhood Assessment & Intervention
Strategies for Reducing Aggression in Early Childhood Classrooms



Patricia Snyder, Ph.D.
Professor & David Lawrence Endowed Chair in Early Childhood Studies
Early Prevention and Intervention
Instructional Practices for Young Children
Communication, Early Literacy, and Social-Emotional Foundations of Early Learning
Family Support
Interdisciplinary Professional Development
Early Childhood Policy

OUR GRADUATES

Jamie Aulton, M.Ed.

Doctoral Student

The **Unified Early Childhood ProTeach** program at UF prepared me to feel confident as a teacher to all children, including young children with disabilities. The community of professors and students encouraged and challenged me to develop my knowledge and skills to become a teacher who supported the academic and social-emotional needs of the children I taught and to build collaborative relationships with families and other educators. I am thankful to return to UF as a doctoral student to continue my educational journey.



Shujia Sun, M.A.E.

Doctoral Student

The **Master of Arts** program in Early Childhood Education at UF not only enhanced my knowledge base but also provided me with opportunities to learn about research in early childhood studies. During my program, I received so much help and support from my advisor, other faculty members, and my peer students. My experience here has inspired me to continue pursuing a doctorate degree in early childhood special education at UF.



Claudia Hale-Jinks, M.Ed.

PreK Program Specialist

The **Unified Early Childhood ProTeach** program at UF afforded me a sound depth and breadth of knowledge on which I have relied in my career. The professors were incredible and took time to get to know us and assist us as individuals. Since graduation, I have only grown prouder of participating in this program and the edge it has given me in the field of Early Childhood. I have enjoyed applying my education in various teaching and administrative positions in this field. Most recently, I was the PreK Program Specialist for Marion County Public Schools. In this position, I was able to collaborate with other Early Learning stakeholders in our district to significantly increase the amount of inclusive preschool opportunities for young children with Individualized Education Programs not only in our Marion County Public Schools classrooms but also with our community partners such as Head Start. I highly recommend this program to anyone who is serious about having a powerful, positive influence in the lives of young children and their families.



Crystal Bishop, Ph.D.

Assistant Research Scientist

I am proud to be a graduate of the UF **doctoral program** in special education and to be part of the first cohort of doctoral students affiliated with the Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies. My faculty mentors supported me to cultivate a rich program of studies that would hone my interests in early childhood studies, special education, and research methodology. What I learned through coursework was extended to applied research experiences with faculty at UF and at universities across the country. These experiences have been invaluable and have allowed me to build a strong network of colleagues, mentors, and community partnerships that are integral to my work as an early career researcher and scholar.



5-YEAR PROTEACH PROGRAM

The Unified Early Childhood (UEC) ProTeach program is an interdisciplinary teacher education program designed to prepare educators to work with all children from the earliest ages to grade 3 (including those with disabilities and from diverse backgrounds). The program results in eligibility for the Preschool (birth to 4 years) Certificate, Prekindergarten/Primary (age 3 to grade 3) Certificate, the ESOL Endorsement and the Prekindergarten Disability Endorsement.

Completion of the program involves a fifth year of study and culminates in a master's degree in Early Childhood Education for those students accepted into the UF Graduate School. Otherwise, this becomes a year of post-baccalaureate study. Admission to the junior year does not guarantee admission to the graduate program.



Questions?
Contact Dr. Tara Mathien,
tmathien@coe.ufl.edu.

UNIFIED EARLY CHILDHOOD PROTEACH COURSEWORK

Semester 1

EDF 3122 The Young Child
EDF 3609 Social Foundations of Ed
EEX 3012 Intro to Spec Ed
LIN 3710 Language Acquisition
EEX 4754 Family Involve in ECSE

Semester 2

EEC 3421 EC Math & Science
EEX 3226 Assessment in EC Spec Ed
EEC 3941 Practicum: EC Ed
RED 3309 Emerg Lit Beg Rdg Instr
EEX 4790 Multicult Iss ECSE (ESOL)

Semester 3

EEC 4712 Social Competence in EC
EEX 4064 Ed Prog for Infant/Toddler
EEC 4215 EC Science & Social Stud
EPH 4033 Severely Handicapped
EEX 4812 Pract: EC Spec Ed

Semester 4

EME 4401 Technology
EDF 3433 Measurement and Eval
LAE 4604 EC Language Arts
EEX 3062 ECSE Curriculum & Mgmt
EEX 4905 EC Curriculum & Mgmt

Fifth Year Option A (M.ED.)

EEC 6615 EC Background & Concept
RED 5399 Pract in Beg Rdg Instruct
EEC 6933 Internship in EC
EEX 6786 Collab Prac in Inklus Sch
EEC 6304 Creativity in EC Curric
EEC 6525 Issues in Childcare Admin
TSL 5142 ESOL Curric/ Meth/ Assess
LAE 6407 EC Children's Literature
EEX 6125 Interv Lang and Learn

Fifth Year Option B (Post-Baccalaureate)

RED 5399 Pract in Beg Rdg Instruct
EEC 6933 Internship in EC
EEC 6304 Creativity in EC Curric
TSL 5142 ESOL Curric/ Meth/ Assess
LAE 6407 EC Children's Literature
EEX 6125 Interv Lang and Learn
TSL 5142 ESOL Curric/ Meth/ Assess

For more information, please visit: <https://education.ufl.edu/early-childhood-education/unified-early-childhood-proteach-teacher-certification-program/>

TRADITIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE

The Master of Arts in Education (MAE) program is designed for applicants who hold or are eligible for certification in early childhood education, or who have completed substantial coursework in the area of early childhood studies (child development, developmental psychology, early childhood education, family studies, for example). The program does not lead to teacher certification and is not an initial teacher preparation program. This program focuses on children from birth through kindergarten. An applicant who chooses this program may plan to pursue a future doctorate, may intend to engage in coaching with teachers or parents, or may endeavor to become a better teacher or administrator.

Thesis Option

The thesis option includes 30 credit hours of coursework plus 6 credit hours of thesis credit. Each student's program is designed together with the student's adviser. The program does not lead to teacher certification.

Non-Thesis Option

The non-thesis option includes 30 credit hours of coursework plus 6 credits of "Project in-lieu-of Thesis." Each student's program is designed together with the student's adviser. The program does not lead to teacher certification.

Admission

Admission to the MAE in Early Childhood Studies (ECS) is for **FALL SEMESTER ONLY**. To ensure full consideration, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit all required application materials to the Graduate School by December 15. ECS program faculty conduct review of applicants' materials in January. ECS program faculty may continue to conduct review of applicants' materials in the spring semester but we cannot guarantee that your application will receive full consideration unless it is submitted by December 15.



Questions?
Contact Dr. Kristen Kemple,
kkemple@coe.ufl.edu.

TRADITIONAL MASTER'S COURSEWORK

Fall Year 1

EEC 6205 Early Childhood Curriculum
EEC 6933 Special Topics
(or Child Development Course)
EEC 6905 Practicum in Early Childhood
EEC 6933 EC Seminar for MAE and Doctoral
Students

Spring Year 1

EEC 6933 Instructional Methods for Young
Children
EDF 6403 Quantitative Foundation of
Educational Research

Summer Year 1

Elective or EC Specialization courses

Fall Year 2

EEC 6933 Families and Diversity in Early
Childhood Studies
EEX 6971 OR EEX 6905 Thesis or Project Research
Elective or EC specialization course

Spring Year 2

EEC 7056 Policy and Advocacy in Early Childhood
Studies
EEC 6933 Early Childhood Assessment and
Evaluation
EEX 6971 OR EEX 6905 Thesis or Project Research

For more information, please visit: <https://education.ufl.edu/early-childhood-education/traditional-early-childhood-masters-degree/>

GRADUATE MINOR & DOCTORAL CONCENTRATION

The **Graduate Minor in Early Childhood Studies** is open to Ph.D. students across the University of Florida, while the **Doctoral Concentration in Early Childhood Studies** is limited to Ph.D. students within the Special Education and School Psychology programs. Both programs provide Ph.D. students with expertise in young children's early development and learning with a focus on children (birth – five years old) who are vulnerable due to biological, environmental, or established risk conditions and their families. The minor is designed to offer interdisciplinary graduate education by combining coursework and applied research opportunities focused on areas within the field of Early Childhood Studies including health, mental health, early education and care, early intervention, policy and law, and family and community-based social supports. The minor provides a unique opportunity for graduate students to interact with faculty across disciplines who have diverse academic backgrounds and areas of research and expertise.

Admission

Both the Graduate Minor and Doctoral Concentration in Early Childhood Studies are administered through the School of Special Education, School Psychology, and Early Childhood Studies (SESPECS) in the College of Education. **The minor is open to all doctoral students across campus who are enrolled in programs outside of SESPECS. Doctoral students within Special Education and School Psychology programs will pursue the concentration.**

MINOR & CONCENTRATION COURSEWORK

Required coursework for both the Graduate Minor and Doctoral Concentration in Early Childhood Studies is the same. Students within the Special Education and School Psychology doctoral programs must apply for the Concentration in Early Childhood Studies. University of Florida doctoral students in programs outside of Special Education and School Psychology will need to pursue the Graduate Minor.

EEC 7666 Theory and Research in Early Childhood Studies
EEC 7056 Early Childhood Policy & Advocacy
EEC 7617 Early Childhood Assessment & Evaluation
EEC 6933 Families, Disabilities, & Diversity
EEC 6933 Social and Pre-academic Instructional Methods for Young Children



Questions?
Contact Dr. Brian Reichow,
breichow@coe.ufl.edu.

For more information about the Graduate Minor, please visit:
<https://education.ufl.edu/early-childhood-education/minor>

For more information about the Doctoral Concentration, please visit:
<https://education.ufl.edu/special-education/doctoral-programs/concentration/>

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

High quality early education is essential for children, particularly children at risk due to developmental concerns or poverty, to reach their potential. This fully online certificate provides specialized knowledge and skills to help professionals in early childhood education and related services understand the context and practice of high quality early education.

In recent years, the importance of effective early education and care has gained a great deal of attention, particularly in policy circles. As a result, a significant need for professionals with specialized knowledge and skills to meet the early educational needs of young children and their families has arisen. This program provides training and skill development in 4 core areas related to early childhood education: developmentally appropriate curriculum, assessment, working with families of young children, and policy and transition in early childhood.

The potential students of this online graduate degree include teachers already working in the field who wish to become leaders, students interested in early learning with the flexibility of online courses, state college graduates with an earned Associate's Degree or Bachelor's Degree who wish to articulate into this graduate certificate program.

Admission

A Bachelors or equivalent degree from a regionally accredited university is required for admissions. Applications are made through the UF Graduate School. Program faculty review applications and make admissions decisions based on the degree to which applicants' qualifications and educational goals match our mission and resources.

CERTIFICATE COURSEWORK

EEC 6205 Early Childhood Curriculum
EEC 6936 Assessment & Evaluation in Early Childhood
Educational Practice
EEC 6936 Families in Early Childhood Education
EEC 6936 Policy & Transition in Early Childhood
Educational Practice



Questions?
Contact Dr. Tina Smith-Bonahue,
tmsmith@coe.ufl.edu.

For more information about our doctoral program, please visit:
<https://education.ufl.edu/early-childhood-education/graduate-certificate/>

UF Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies



The **Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies** is an interdisciplinary university-wide center at the University of Florida affiliated with the School of Special Education, School Psychology, and Early Childhood Studies. The Center's work is dedicated to advancing knowledge, policy and practices in early childhood studies. Early childhood studies is an interdisciplinary field focused on young children birth to age 5, their families, and the contexts that support their health, development, learning and well-being.

To accomplish its mission, the Center partners with and draws upon the expertise of faculty from colleges throughout UF. The Center's research and practice collaborators, also dedicated to addressing the needs of vulnerable children and their families, are from the Colleges of Education, Law, Medicine, Public Health and Health Professions, and other institutes and centers.

Center members engage with local, state, national and global partners to address the needs of communities, vulnerable children and their families. Forging commitments among diverse stakeholders, the Center is implementing and sharing evidence-informed solutions that spur change in practices and policies to transform lives. Students enrolled in all early childhood studies programs have opportunities to engage with the Center as student affiliates, enriching and extending their academic experiences.

UF | **Anita Zucker Center**
for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies

<https://ceecs.education.ufl.edu/>