

Early Childhood Policy in Institutions of Higher Education (ECPIHE)

Our ECPIHE proposal leverages existing synergies among four established UF Centers. The Education Policy Research Center (EPRC) and Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies (AZCEECS) will lead UF's ECP effort. Faculty from two other Centers have agreed to join: Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR) and Levin College of Law Center on Children and Families (CCF). Establishing ECP in IHEs necessitates a transdisciplinary approach, breaking down conventional disciplinary boundaries, to prepare ECP leaders (e.g., policymakers, analysts, researchers, leaders, advocates, and others) who will work in diverse settings. Our primary goals in the 2-year funding period will be the development and institutionalization of a master's degree in ECP, a 12 credit hour graduate certificate for doctoral and other students (both based on ECPIHE modules and syllabi), and the establishment of an ECP centers collaborative (ECP-CC). Long term, this range of program offerings and activities will embed ECP at UF and contribute to ECP as a field of inquiry more broadly.

At the master's level, our goal is to prepare a cadre of individuals who will have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to assume leadership roles across ECP sectors. These students will be well-positioned to contribute and lead in ECP roles upon graduation. The certificate will serve UF doctoral students, other UF master's students, and those seeking additional training through a standalone graduate credential. Our goal for the graduate certificate will be to equip future researchers, leaders, and higher education instructors to support ECP as a field of inquiry distinct from early childhood practice. The ECP-CC represents a strategic partnership between existing UF centers (EPRC, AZCEECS, CEEDAR, CCF, and others) to provide transdisciplinary ECP activities (i.e., symposia, speaker events, etc.) and research endeavors (i.e., research/funding).

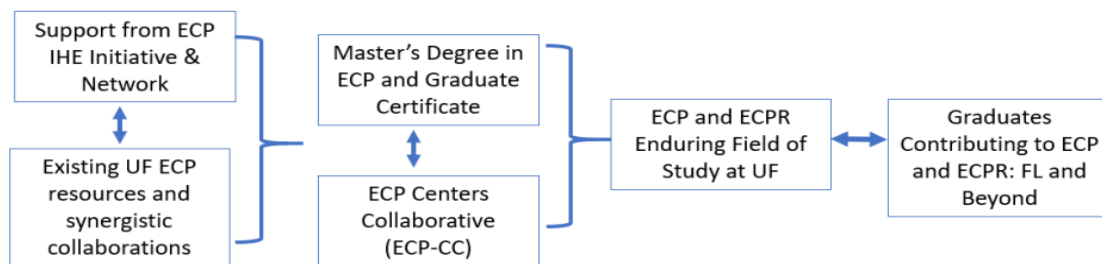


Figure 1. *Theory of change to develop ECP as an enduring field*