

2002

# Early Childhood Education Program of Study ECAA Course Descriptions [2002]

Nova Southeastern University

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**PROGRAM OF STUDY**

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Wed Sep 25, 2002

**ECAA COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****CDA COURSES****ECA 101**

INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:  
PROFESSIONALISM, SAFETY, HEALTH,  
AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT – CDA I (3 CREDITS)

INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION-CDA I  
*Professionalism, Safety, Health, and Learning Environment*

In this course students learn about the developmental needs of children from birth to age five. Students learn to ensure the safety and health of children in early childhood programs, and to establish developmentally appropriate learning environments for young children. Students examine avenues of ongoing professional development for teachers and caregivers of young children. This course covers the CDA-Child Development Associate Functional Areas of Professionalism, Safety, Health, and Learning Environment.

**ECA 112**

INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:  
PHYSICAL, COGNITIVE, COMMUNICATION, AND  
CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT – CDA II (3 credits)

INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION-CDA II  
*Physical, Cognitive, Communication, and Creative Development*

In this course students learn about the developmental needs of children from birth to age five. Students learn to support children's physical development, encourage cognitive learning and the development of communication skills, and enhance creative expression. This course covers the Child Development Associate-CDA Functional Areas of Physical, Cognitive, Communication, and Creativity.

**ECA 114**

INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:  
FAMILIES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES – CDA III (3 credits)

INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION-CDA III  
*Social-Emotional Development, Program Management, Families and Community*

In this course students learn about the developmental needs of children from birth to age five. Students learn to support the social and emotional development of young children and to provide positive guidance. Students explore ways to work effectively with families, and develop program management skills related to observing children and delivering appropriate curriculum. This course covers the Child Development Associate-CDA Functional Areas of Self, Social, Guidance, Families, and Program Management.

**ECA COURSES****ECA 103**

FOUNDATIONS OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION  
(3 credits)

This course introduces students to the historical, philosophical and sociological foundations of programs for young children. Professional and ethical behavior in early childhood education will be discussed. Students will be engaged in the analysis of different program models and instructional strategies. Appropriate field experiences are integrated and required.

**ECA 105**

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS  
(BIRTH THROUGH AGE 8) (3 credits)

This course will guide students in determining a child's developmental readiness, learning styles, and social-emotional needs. Students will learn ways of adapting the classroom to meet the needs of children who have special requirements. The history of exceptional education will be explored in conjunction with the educational and social issues relative to the field. Appropriate field experiences are integrated and required.

**ECA 115**

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN  
(3 credits)

Students will explore creative activities in several curriculum areas and adapt plans to meet the needs of all children. The classroom environment will be discussed as a means of children's learning. Appropriate field experiences are integrated and required.

**ECA 118**

CHILD OBSERVATION, RECORD KEEPING,  
AND ASSESSMENT (3 credits)

In this course students will have the opportunity to observe children in structured and unstructured situations, record their observations, and use their records as a way of assessing strengths and needs of individual children. Guidelines will be provided for properly conducting observations, keeping records and using assessment data for curriculum planning. Appropriate field experiences are integrated and required.

**ECA 127**

DEVELOPMENTAL CURRICULUM: LANGUAGE,  
LITERACY, AND SOCIAL STUDIES (3 credits)

This course will focus on the elements of developmentally appropriate curriculum for children. Students explore ways in which children, beginning in infancy, acquire language, develop the basis of literacy, and come to understand their social world. Students learn ways of creating integrated curriculum, organize the environment, and of providing children with developmentally appropriate activities that foster concept and increase and promote social and scientific awareness. Appropriate field experiences are integrated and required.

**ECA 128**

DEVELOPMENTAL CURRICULUM: MATH AND SCIENCE  
(3 credits)

This course focuses on the ways in which children construct knowledge through play and exploration. Students learn ways of helping children develop early math concepts, engage in scientific explorations, and engage in creative problem solving. Appropriate field experiences are integrated and required.

**ECA 141**

CHILD GUIDANCE (3 credits)

Students will develop appropriate ways to guide children's behavior through effective organization of the environment (emphasizing schedule, activities and materials) and guidance techniques that minimize conflict and encourage children to play and learn cooperatively. Appropriate field experiences are integrated and required.

**ECA 201**  
PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOR  
IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (1 credit)

Students will analyze the characteristics and role of the professional early childhood educator. Students will examine current professional issues such as child legislation, advocacy efforts. Discussion of the Code of Ethical Behavior and its implications is emphasized. Appropriate field experiences are integrated and required.

**ECA 210**  
FIELD EXPERIENCES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION: PORTFOLIO REVIEW LAB I (1 credit)

This course provides students with opportunities to observe, engage in dialogue, investigate methods and participate in planning. Support to the pre-professional in the art and science of teaching is provided through reflective supervision.

**ECA 211**  
FIELD EXPERIENCES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION: PORTFOLIO REVIEW LAB II (1 credit)

This course provides students with opportunities to observe, engage in dialogue, investigate methods and participate in planning. Support to the pre-professional in the art and science of teaching is provided through reflective supervision.

**ECA 212**  
FIELD EXPERIENCES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION: PORTFOLIO REVIEW LAB III (1 credit)

This course provides students with opportunities to observe, engage in dialogue, investigate methods and participate in planning. Support to the pre-professional in the art and science of teaching is provided through reflective supervision.

### ELECTIVES

**ECA 205**  
MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN (2 credits)

Students will examine key components of effective management of early childhood programs. Budgeting practices, supervisory tasks, legal issues and resource development will be discussed. Appropriate field experiences are integrated and required.

**ECA 206**  
LEADERSHIP IN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION (2 credits)

Students will examine leadership theory in the context of early care and education. The impact on leadership development of program settings, funding sources and evaluation measures will be analyzed. Appropriate field experiences are integrated and required.

### GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

**ARTS 2300**  
ART IN SOCIETY (3 credits)

This course examines the ways in which artists and the arts have influenced Western society from the Renaissance to the 20th century, focusing on painting, sculpture, architecture, music, dance, and film. Students will also visit local museums and attend musical and theatrical events as a means of gaining a greater understanding of the arts within the local community. Prerequisite: WRIT 1000.

**LITR 2010****BRITISH LITERATURE (3 credits)**

A survey of major literary movements and writers, from the Beowulf poet to the present. The course examines themes common to different historical periods. Prerequisites: READ 1000 and WRIT 1500 with a C- or higher.

**LITR 2020****AMERICAN LITERATURE (3 credits)**

A survey of American literature from the Puritans to the present, emphasizing major authors and identifying themes common to different historical periods. Prerequisites: READ 1000 and WRIT 1500 with a C- or higher.

**LITR 2030****WORLD LITERATURE (3 credits)**

A survey of selected masterpieces by writers who have influenced the evolution of world culture, such as Homer, Dante, and Cervantes. Prerequisites: READ 1000 and WRIT 1500 with a C-or higher.

**BIOL 1100****CONCEPTS AND CONNECTIONS IN BIOLOGY(3 credits)**

Focuses on the fundamental concepts in the life sciences and helps students make connections to the real world. This course is designed to emphasize the required biological concepts needed by middle-school teachers. Basic functions of life are compared and contrasted in organisms representing the five kingdoms. Connections are made between the various life forms and humans. Heredity will be studied with special attention given to the classic experiments important in the development of the field of genetics. Throughout this course, students will develop a portfolio of resources applicable for use in the middle-school classroom.

**BIOL 1040****ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (3 credits)**

Overview of environmental science that integrates social, economic, technical, and political issues. Problems of ecological disruptions, growth of human populations, land use, energy, water supplies, food supplies, pesticides, and pollution are covered.

**TECH 1110****INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS (3 credits)**

Basic technology skills for survival in the "information age" are covered. Students achieve fluency using the technology skills needed for academic course work, and they acquire the knowledge required for success in the "real world" of work, lifelong learning, and rapidly changing technology. Students demonstrate mastery researching online databases, navigating and publishing on the Web, and demonstrating proficiency in a software package that integrates word-processing, spreadsheet, chart, multimedia presentation, and database applications. Some material is included by direct request of professors in the majors and involves technology skills students are expected to know and use in their course work. Students customize projects to an area of their major or intended profession. Technology's impact and ever-increasing rate of change are covered throughout. Activities are hands-on, and class meets in the MicroLab.

**PSYC 2370****CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT (3 credits)**

Students in this course will critically examine theories and research concerning the cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development of the typical and atypical child from birth to age eight. Emphasis will be placed on the ability to observe and describe child behavior and to understand the principles and processes that govern growth and development in the early childhood years. Implications of knowledge of child development for parental behavior, professional practices, and

social policy will also be considered. Students may not receive credit for this course if they have taken PSYC 2380.

**WRIT 1500**

COLLEGE WRITING (3 credits)

A writing workshop with instruction in the principles and skills of argumentation and critical reading. Students will receive instruction in basic methods of research and documentation of sources and in computer use. Prerequisites: placement examination or WRIT 1000 with a C- or higher.

**WRIT 2000**

ADVANCED COLLEGE WRITING (3 credits)

A writing workshop with advanced instruction in argumentation as it applies in various professional settings. The course also includes additional instruction in critical reading, research, and writing. Prerequisites: READ 1000 and WRIT 1500 with a C- or higher.

**MATH 1040**

ALGEBRA FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS (3 credits)

The second course in a two-course sequence designed to provide students with a full range of algebra skills. This course includes the prerequisite skills for calculus classes. Topics include rational expressions and functions, roots, quadratic functions, exponents and logarithms, and conic sections. Prerequisite: placement examination or MATH 1030 with a grade of C- or higher.

**MATH 1030**

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA (3 credits)

The first course in a two-course sequence designed to provide students with a full range of algebra skills. This course is designed for students who have had some algebra. Topics covered include the real numbers, polynomials, linear equations and inequalities in one and two variables, functions, and systems of linear equations. A grade of C- or better is required to move on to subsequent courses. Prerequisite: placement examination or MATH 1000 with a grade of C- or higher.

**COMM 2010**

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS (3 credits)

Training and practice in fundamentals of public speaking including methods of obtaining and organizing materials, oral presentation development and delivery, and audience analysis

**SOCL 2020**

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (3 credits)

The nature and needs of man and society, groups and institutions, social processes, and social change. Special emphasis will be placed on American culture and the impact of technology on modern man.

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