

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (BS)

Education, Democracy, and Social Change

The BS in Early Childhood Education prepares students for careers working with children from birth through eight years of age and their families. The Early Childhood Education program is based on the principle that supporting the growth, development, and learning of young children is meaningful, challenging, and important work. Students will develop a strong theoretical and conceptual knowledge base while engaging in supervised field experiences in a variety of early childhood settings, including the nationally accredited Center for Young Children and Families at PSU. The program is also grounded in the belief that children live and learn within diverse families, cultures, and communities, and that to truly understand and appreciate each child, early childhood professionals must also learn about these broader contexts. Because early childhood professionals must work collaboratively with children, families, other professionals, community members and agencies, the program emphasizes effective communication and collaboration skills and openness to other perspectives.

All Early Childhood Education majors must choose one of the following options: Early Care and Education or Teacher Certification PreK-Grade 3. Early Childhood majors who are near the end of their program may choose a Contract Option if the circumstances warrant it. The degree program emphasizes the roles and responsibilities of early childhood educators and the knowledge and skills needed to be an effective leader and advocate. The BS in Early Childhood Education also serves as a foundation to pursue advanced degrees in early childhood education, early childhood special education, psychology, allied health professions, and the human services.

In order for Early Childhood Education majors to participate in field experiences in diverse settings that are essential for their development as early childhood professionals, students must be willing and able to travel outside of the Plymouth area beyond walking distances. Early Childhood Education majors should plan for and be able to provide their own transportation by the junior year.

Fingerprinting/Criminal Background Check Requirements for Child Care Programs and Public Schools

Students who work with children in field experiences are subject to New Hampshire law, which requires all persons who come into contact with children/students on a regular basis for a period of time to undergo a full disclosure criminal records check, including fingerprinting. This requirement affects Early Childhood Education majors who will be completing field experiences at the Center for Young Children and Families, other early care and education programs, and public school placements. The cost to an individual for a fingerprinting, criminal record check, and required Eligibility Card for child care is \$69.50. The fingerprinting and criminal records checks are typically completed at one of six digital stations in New Hampshire. They may also be completed at local police departments in New Hampshire that have a LiveScan machine, but there may be an additional service charge.

As of October 2016, NH State Law RSA 170-E:7 requires that all child care personnel age 18 and over must have LiveScan fingerprinting and

a criminal background check. Students should be prepared to complete this requirement prior to their first clinical experience at the Center for Young Children and Families or another child care program site. Up-to-date information is available from the NH State Child Care Licensing Unit at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oos/cclu/fingerprinting.htm> or from a faculty advisor.

Fingerprinting and background checks are also required for field experiences in the public schools, such as those associated with ER 4290 and ER 4700, and for the teaching internship (student teaching). School districts make final decisions about which field experiences will require a criminal background check. The results of the background check will be reported to and held by the district, so students may be required to complete a separate background check for each district in which they have a field experience placement. Questions about fingerprinting and criminal background checks for field experiences in public schools should be directed to the course instructor or, for teaching internship experiences, to the Holmes Center for School Partnerships and Educator Preparation. (See also the Holmes Center for School Partnerships and Educator Preparation section of this catalog.)

Health Assessment, CPR/First Aid Certification and Health and Safety Training Requirements for Child Care

The State of New Hampshire also requires that persons who work with children in a child care setting submit a current health assessment, have CPR/First Aid Certification, and complete the NH Health and Safety Trainings in topics listed in He-C 4002.30 Professional Development found at <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oos/cclu/rules.htm>. The NH Health and Safety Trainings can currently be obtained for free at <https://www.prosolutionstraining.com/content/?id=166/Home/>. The Center for Young Children and Families will guide and support students through the process of meeting these requirements.

Center for Young Children and Families

The Plymouth State University Center for Young Children and Families (CYCF), a state-licensed and nationally accredited early childhood program, is part of the Department of Early Childhood Education. The mission of the CYCF is to provide high-quality early childhood programs to young children and their families, and to serve as a model program for preparing early childhood professionals. Its child-centered philosophy reflects an understanding of the needs of young children in a complex society. A play-based, project-oriented curriculum complements the constructivist approach introduced in the Early Childhood Education program. The CYCF employs teachers who have degrees in early childhood education and/or have considerable experience in the field. The CYCF hires undergraduate students as classroom aides and serves as an observation, field experience, and practicum site for all Early Childhood Education majors as well as for students in other degree programs. For additional information, please visit plymouth.edu/services/cycf/.

Early Care and Education Option

The Early Care and Education Option provides specific preparation for caring for and teaching children from infancy through kindergarten and working with young children and families in non-public school settings. Students in this option will have experiences working in a variety of early childhood settings and programs. These could include Early Head Start, early intervention, infant care, private and/or non-profit child care and preschool programs, hospital-based programs, Montessori programs or

other settings. Early Childhood Education candidates with this Option are strongly encouraged to complete an academic minor, selected in consultation with their academic advisor, to complement their interests and career goals.

In order for Early Childhood Education majors to participate in field experiences in diverse settings that are essential for their development as early childhood professionals, students must be willing and able to travel outside of the Plymouth area beyond walking distances. Early Childhood Education majors should plan for and be able to provide their own transportation by the junior year.

Teacher Certification (PreK-Grade 3) Option

Early Childhood Education majors who plan to teach in a public school primary grade classroom should select the Teacher Certification PreK-Grade 3 Option. In this option, courses focus more specifically on children in the age range from five to eight and on the primary classroom setting. The content and pedagogical knowledge needed to teach in the primary grades is introduced in the early childhood core courses and the general education courses and further developed in the teacher certification option courses. Early Childhood teacher candidates will develop a repertoire of culturally responsive teaching strategies to foster primary grade students' understanding of reading, writing, language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, technology, and the arts. The Teacher Certification PreK-Grade 3 Option provides extensive field experiences in area public schools, culminating in a year-long internship in a public school primary grade classroom. The year-long internship includes a two-and-a-half day per week practicum in a primary grade classroom in the fall semester, followed by a full-time teaching internship in the same classroom in the spring semester. The intern year provides Early Childhood teacher candidates with a unique opportunity to develop relationships with their mentor teacher and the children in their class, participate in the development of classroom community over the course of a school year, see how the children grow and change over a year, and build the skills and knowledge needed to be an effective primary grade educator. Early Childhood teacher candidates benefit from our long-standing partnerships with area schools, which provide rich internship experiences under the mentorship of public school educators and university faculty.

The Educator Preparation programs at Plymouth State University are approved by the New Hampshire Department of Education. The University is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE). The Early Childhood Education program has also achieved national recognition from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Graduates who complete this Teacher Certification Option and pass standardized tests in reading and early childhood content knowledge (required by the state of New Hampshire) are eligible for Birth-Grade 3 teacher certification in the state of New Hampshire. Because of New Hampshire's membership in the Interstate Certification Contract, Plymouth graduates are eligible to earn a certificate or license in another Contract state upon application to that state's department of education. Receiving states may have a difference in elementary grade range and may impose certain special requirements that must be met within a reasonable period of time. For further information, please see the Holmes Center for School Partnerships and Educator Preparation section. Requirements for certification may change, subject to changes made by the New Hampshire Department of Education. Teacher candidates can find the most current New Hampshire

Department of Education standards at education.nh.gov/index.htm (<http://education.nh.gov>).

A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 is required for admission into Teacher Certification candidacy. Candidates are required to have a 3.00 grade point average in order to enroll in Inquiry, Integration, and Problem Solving in the Primary Grades (ER 4250), Primary Grade (K-3) Practicum (ER 4290), K-3 Internship in Teaching in an Inclusive Classroom (ER 4410), and K-3 Internship in Teaching Seminar (ER 4500). All full-time or part-time matriculated candidates in this Option are expected to make satisfactory academic progress toward their academic goals.

In order for Early Childhood Education majors to participate in clinical experiences in diverse settings that are essential for their development as early childhood professionals and required for accreditation, students must be willing and able to travel outside of the Plymouth area beyond walking distances. Early Childhood Education majors should plan for and be able to provide their own transportation by the junior year.

Acceptance into the Teacher Certification Option requires acceptance into teacher certification candidacy (which includes passing the Praxis™ Core Academic Skills for Educators exam). The K-3 Internship in Teaching in an Inclusive Classroom requires a minimum grade of C in Inquiry, Integration, and Problem Solving in the Primary Grades (ER 4250), Primary Grade (K-3) Practicum (ER 4290), and Reading, Writing, and Language Arts in the Primary Grades (RL 3500) and a minimum 3.00 cumulative grade point average.

Contract Option

This 21-credit option is designed by the student and his/her advisor and must be approved by the Department. The 21 credits of the Option must be 3000/4000 level courses in Early Childhood (ER), Early Childhood Special Education (ERSE), Education (ED), and/or Reading (RL). The student must have 15-30 credits left to take at Plymouth to declare this Option. In designing this Option the student should work with his/her advisor to develop a program that will support his/her career goals.

Degree Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
ER 2150	Play and Learning in Early Childhood	4
ER 2200	The Constructivist Approach in Early Care and Education	3
ER 2305	Young Children's Learning and Development in Context	4
ER 2400	Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Health for the Young Child (WECO)	3
ER 2800	Preschool and Kindergarten Curriculum and Instruction	6
ER 3210	Assessment in Early Childhood	3
ER 3300	Culturally Responsive Early Care and Education (DICO,WRCO)	3
ER 3450	Guiding Young Mathematicians: Math Methods for Early Childhood (QRCO)	4
ER 4200	Senior Seminar: Perspectives on Early Childhood (INCO)	3
ERSE 2500	Inclusive Early Childhood Education	3
MA 2110	Mathematics for PreK-Grade 3 Educators	4

RL 2500	Language and Literacy Development in Young Children	3
General Education (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education)		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1111	The First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry	3
CTDI	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
PPDI	Past and Present Direction	3-4
SIDI	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4
SSDI	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) ¹		4-8
GACO	Global Awareness Connection	3-4
Option Requirements		
Complete one from the following required options:		46-47
Early Care and Education		
Teacher Certification (PreK-Grade 3)		
Contract Option		
Total Credits		120

¹ Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

Early Care and Education Option

Course	Title	Credits
ER 3400	The Project Approach	6
ER 4300	Leadership, Advocacy, and Policy in Early Childhood (TECO)	3
ER 4700	Early Childhood Practicum	3
ERSE 3600	Infant and Toddler Care and Education	4
Electives		30-31
Total Credits		46-47

Teacher Certification (PreK-Grade 3) Option

Course	Title	Credits
ER 3700	Learning and Teaching in the Primary Grades	3
ER 4250	Inquiry, Integration, and Problem Solving in the Primary Grades (TECO)	4
ER 4290	Primary Grade (K-3) Practicum	6
ER 4410	K-3 Internship in Teaching in an Inclusive Classroom	12
ER 4500	K-3 Internship in Teaching Seminar	3
ERSE 3500	Special Education in the Primary Grades	3
RL 3500	Reading, Writing, and Language Arts in the Primary Grades	3
Electives		12-13
Total Credits		46-47

Contract Option

This 21-credit option is designed by the student and his/her advisor and must be approved by the Department. The 21 credits of the Option must be 3000/4000 level courses in Early Childhood (ER), Early Childhood

Special Education (ERSE), Education (ED), and/or Reading (RL). The student must have 15-30 credits left to take at Plymouth to declare this Option. In designing this Option the student should work with his/her advisor to develop a program that will support his/her career goals.

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
ER, ERSE, ED, and/or RL 3000/4000 level Contract courses (not ERDI, not ERSEDI, not EDDI, not RLDI)		
Technology in the Discipline Connection		
ER 4250	Inquiry, Integration, and Problem Solving in the Primary Grades (TECO)	3-4
or ER 4300	Leadership, Advocacy, and Policy in Early Childhood (TECO)	
Electives		25
Total Credits		46-47

Recommended Course Sequence Required Options in this Major

Complete one option

Early Care and Education Option of BS Early Childhood Education

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule. Course sequence is suggested but not required.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1111	The First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry	3
MA 2110	Mathematics for PreK-Grade 3 Educators	4
ER 2150	Play and Learning in Early Childhood	4
ER 2305	Young Children's Learning and Development in Context	4
ER 2400	Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Health for the Young Child (WECO)	3
ERSE 2500	Inclusive Early Childhood Education	3
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
Credits		31-33
Year Two		
ER 2200	The Constructivist Approach in Early Care and Education	3
ER 2800	Preschool and Kindergarten Curriculum and Instruction	6
RL 2500	Language and Literacy Development in Young Children	3

SIDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI)	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4
SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education) ¹		4-8
Elective		4
Credits		26-32
Year Three		
ER 3210	Assessment in Early Childhood	3
ER 3300	Culturally Responsive Early Care and Education (DICO,WRCO)	3
ER 3450	Guiding Young Mathematicians: Math Methods for Early Childhood (QRCO)	4
ERSE 3600	Infant and Toddler Care and Education ²	4
GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Global Awareness Connection	3-4
Electives		12-13
Credits		29-31
Year Four		
ER 3400	The Project Approach ²	6
ER 4200	Senior Seminar: Perspectives on Early Childhood (INCO)	3
ER 4300	Leadership, Advocacy, and Policy in Early Childhood (TECO) ²	3
ER 4700	Early Childhood Practicum ²	3
Electives		14
Credits		29
Total Credits		120

¹ Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

² Required for the Option

Teacher Certification (PreK-Grade 3) Option of BS Early Childhood Education

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule. Course sequence is suggested but not required.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1111	The First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry	3
MA 2110	Mathematics for PreK-Grade 3 Educators	4
ER 2150	Play and Learning in Early Childhood	4
ER 2305	Young Children's Learning and Development in Context	4
ER 2400	Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Health for the Young Child (WECO)	3

ERSE 2500	Inclusive Early Childhood Education	3
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
Credits		31-33
Year Two		
ER 2200	The Constructivist Approach in Early Care and Education	3
ER 2800	Preschool and Kindergarten Curriculum and Instruction	6
RL 2500	Language and Literacy Development in Young Children	3
SIDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI)	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4
SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education) ¹		4-8
Elective		4
Credits		26-32
Year Three		
ER 3210	Assessment in Early Childhood	3
ER 3300	Culturally Responsive Early Care and Education (DICO,WRCO)	3
ER 3450	Guiding Young Mathematicians: Math Methods for Early Childhood (QRCO)	4
ER 3700	Learning and Teaching in the Primary Grades ²	3
ERSE 3500	Special Education in the Primary Grades ²	3
RL 3500	Reading, Writing, and Language Arts in the Primary Grades ²	3
GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Global Awareness Connection	3-4
Electives		7-8
Credits		29-31
Year Four		
ER 4200	Senior Seminar: Perspectives on Early Childhood (INCO)	3
ER 4250	Inquiry, Integration, and Problem Solving in the Primary Grades (TECO) ²	4
ER 4290	Primary Grade (K-3) Practicum ²	6
ER 4410	K-3 Internship in Teaching in an Inclusive Classroom ²	12
ER 4500	K-3 Internship in Teaching Seminar ²	3

Elective	1
Credits	29
Total Credits	120

¹ Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

² Required for the Option

Contract Option of BS Early Childhood Education

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule. Course sequence is suggested but not required.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1111	The First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry	3
MA 2110	Mathematics for PreK-Grade 3 Educators	4
ER 2150	Play and Learning in Early Childhood	4
ER 2305	Young Children's Learning and Development in Context	4
ER 2400	Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Health for the Young Child (WECO)	3
ERSE 2500	Inclusive Early Childhood Education	3
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
	Credits	31-33

Year Two		
ER 2200	The Constructivist Approach in Early Care and Education	3
ER 2800	Preschool and Kindergarten Curriculum and Instruction	6
RL 2500	Language and Literacy Development in Young Children	3
SIDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI)	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4
SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/) ¹		4-8
Elective		3-5
	Credits	25-33

Year Three		
ER, ERSE, ED, and/or RL 3000/4000 level Contract courses (not ERDI, not ERSEDI, not EDDI, nor RLDI) ²		9
ER 3210	Assessment in Early Childhood	3

ER 3300	Culturally Responsive Early Care and Education (DICO,WRCO)	3
ER 3450	Guiding Young Mathematicians: Math Methods for Early Childhood (QRCO)	4
GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Global Awareness Connection	3-4
Electives		7-8
	Credits	29-31

Year Four		
ER 4200	Senior Seminar: Perspectives on Early Childhood (INCO)	3
ER, ERSE, ED, and/or RL 3000/4000 level Contract courses (not ERDI, not ERSEDI, not EDDI, nor RLDI) ²	Technology in the Discipline Connection: ²	9
ER 4250 or ER 4300	Inquiry, Integration, and Problem Solving in the Primary Grades (TECO) or Leadership, Advocacy, and Policy in Early Childhood (TECO)	3-4
Electives		13-14
	Credits	28-30
	Total Credits	120

¹ Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

² Required for the Option