

Early Childhood Student Information

All Early Childhood program students enroll as student teachers to gain practical experience in organizing, writing, and implementing curriculum both in the role of head teacher and support teacher. An assessment course taught concurrently guides the understanding of the wedded role of student assessment and curriculum planning.

1-Year Certificate and Associate's Degree candidates enroll in EDEC 2700 (Early Childhood Practicum) and EDEC 2720 (Early Childhood Assessment) in the same semester for a total of 5 credit hours.

This provides for 14-weeks and 45 hours of interaction with children in a preschool setting.

Pre-Practicum Requirements:

- **First Aid/CPR certification:** This is required to work in the field so we require this certification to be current before you begin working with children in our preschool. CCR&R (863-8220) can help you find a class that is convenient for you.
- **Background Check:** This is done just prior to the practicum experience and has a total fee of \$25 for fingerprinting and the BCI screening.

Portfolio review

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) requires portfolio assessment of all teacher candidates. In EDEC 2720 (Early Childhood Assessment) students write overview statements and reflections for each of the NAEYC Early Childhood Teacher Education Standards. 1-Year Certificate and Associate's Degree graduates prepare a professional portfolio with at least two artifacts and reflections in each of the NAEYC Early Childhood Teacher Education Standards which they review with the Early Childhood Committee before graduation.

NAEYC Standard	Description
1	Promoting child development and learning
2	Building family and community relationships
3	Observing, documenting, and assessing to support young children and families
4	Teaching and Learning
4a	Connecting with children and families
4b	Using developmentally effective approaches
4c	Understanding content knowledge in early education
4d	Building meaningful curriculum
5	Becoming a professional