

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BS

The early childhood education (ECE) major prepares graduates to work with a diverse population of young children and families using research-based, developmentally appropriate educational practices. The ECE major is a teacher preparation program accredited by The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), with curricular emphasis on the years spanning birth to age five. Experiential learning activities, assessments, and classroom practicum experiences with children in birth to pre-K settings are provided for all students. The knowledge and skills that ECE students learn help prepare them to teach in a variety of early learning programs, such as programs that use emergent curriculum, Pre-K programs housed in public schools, private childcare programs, faith-based programs, community-based programs, and others. Students also are prepared for non-teaching careers as early interventionists, case managers, employees for non-profit organizations, and curriculum specialists. Eligible students may also apply for teacher certification (Birth to PreK Child Development Certificate) to work in public Pre-K classrooms in Alabama. *This major has a one-semester internship requirement.*

Degree Options

Early childhood education students graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree. Students who began their studies on or after July 2017, may apply for teacher certification through the Alabama State Department of Education.

HDFS Department Requirements

All students with a major in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies must take the following courses as part of the University core requirements:

Code and Title	Hours
BSC 114 Principles Of Biology I & BSC 115 or BSC 109 Intro Biology Non Maj II	4
HD 101 Life Span Human Development	3
PY 101 Intro To Psychology	3
Total Hours	10

Early Childhood Education Major Requirements

Code and Title	Hours
HD 202 Child Dev-Infancy/Todlr	3
HD 205 Early and Middle Child Dev	3
HD 215 Foundations of ECE	3
HD 321 Curriculum Planning in ECE I	3
HD 322 Curriculum Planning in ECE II	3
HD 327 Assessment of Young Children	3
HD 382 Parent And Family Devt	3
HD 422 Admin Child Centers & Programs	3
HD 472 Program Evaluation	3
HD 495 Early Childhood Ed Internship	6
SPE 471 Dev Persp Young Child W/ Disab	3
Choose one of the following:	3
HD 220 Research & Critical Thinking	

PY 211	Elem Statistical Methods
BER 345	Educational Statistics

Total Hours **39**

Each student completing the early childhood education major must have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher in both HD and UA coursework before enrolling in HD 495 Early Childhood Ed Internship. Many internship opportunities require a cumulative and HD GPA of 2.5 or higher. Students should contact the department's internship coordinator for further information.

Careers for Graduates

Early Childhood Educator, birth-pre K teacher, early interventionist, curriculum specialist, case manager, advocate for early childhood policies, and employee for non-profit organization.

Jobs of Experienced Alumni

Lead teachers, pre-K teachers, instructional facilitators, cooperating master teachers, and school administrators (principals, special education supervisors, and directors of non-profit organizations).

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center