

Early Childhood Development and Education

Become a certified teacher or developmental specialist for young children, from birth to age 8.

THIS MAJOR IS A GOOD FIT IF YOU CAN SEE YOURSELF:

WORKING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, including children with special developmental and learning needs

COMMUNICATING and partnering with parents

HELPING TO MAKE childhood a satisfying and enriching time of life

This rigorous major is offered in conjunction with the University of Idaho College of Education. You will learn the fundamentals of human development so that you understand how children grow and learn. You will learn how to provide activities and environments that support each child's unique intellectual, social, and personal developmental needs. And you will learn how to make and interpret formal and informal assessments.

Upon graduation, you will be eligible for the Idaho Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Education (ECE/ECSE) Blended Teacher Certification and well prepared to work as a developmental specialist, preschool teacher, or teacher in grades K-3, including special education.

INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

In class, learn the processes by which children become adept at using language, thinking, feeling, and relating to others. Explore educational theories and strategies for teaching. Laboratory classes on observation, curriculum, and assessment include weekly hands-on clinics for applying your knowledge in community settings. Observe and interact with children, create stimulating learning environments, and cooperate with parents to support their children.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

INTERN. Get practical experience. Three required semester-long internships will expose you to children in different age groups: birth-3, pre-school, and K-3. You will assess children, team with parents, write developmental plans, plan curricula, make home visits, and work in teams with physical therapists, occupational therapists, and other professionals.

STUDY ABROAD. Deepen your understanding of your major—and the world—with international experiences. Study in countries such as Ecuador, Denmark, New Zealand, or Greece. Learn about children, families, and culture in other countries.

DO RESEARCH. Make hands-on discoveries. Take part in a faculty research project or do your own independent study.

VOLUNTEER. Make a difference. Tutor at a local elementary school. Read, sing, or play with children at a Head Start program. Paint the playroom at a homeless shelter.

GET INVOLVED. Network and have fun. Advocate for the needs of young children, receive mentoring, and attend local early childhood workshops and conferences in the Palouse Area Association for the Education of Young Children and the Council for Exceptional Children. Attend an annual state conference and meet professionals in the field in the Family and Consumer Sciences Club. Join Phi Upsilon Omicron, the national honor society in family and consumer sciences.

FASTFACT

In our Child Development Laboratory, students provide materials and play opportunities that foster young children's learning and development.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The need for professionals who work with young children is increasing. Certified graduates receive starting salaries of \$30,000 in public and private schools, programs such as Head Start, and infant-toddler programs associated with public agencies.

Here are a few possibilities:

TEACHER. Manage your own classroom in a preschool or elementary school. Create an innovative, exciting, and developmentally appropriate education program for young children.

SPECIAL EDUCATOR. Work in schools to provide education and therapeutic services to children with special needs.

DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIST. Provide education services, early intervention services, and therapeutic interaction for infants and toddlers.

CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION. Earn an advanced degree in education or therapy studies.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION MAJOR

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	FRESHMAN	SOPHOMORE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	
FALL	CORE 103-149 4 Core Discovery Course	Ed 302 3 Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Strategies	Art 100 3 World Art & Culture <i>or MusH 101</i> 3 Survey of Music	EDCI 327 3 Elementary Math Education	
	Eng 101 3 Intro. to College Writing	EdSP 350 3 Language & Communication Development & Disorders	Dan 360 1 Children's Dance	EDCI 328 3 Elementary Social Studies Education	
	FCS 210 2 Intro. to Early Childhood Education	FCS 235 3 Principles & Methods of Child Observation	EDCI 321 2 Literature for Children	EDCI 329 3 Elementary Science Education	
	Hist 111, 112 3 Intro. to U.S. History <i>or PoLS 101</i> 3 Intro. to Political Science & American Government	FCS 340 3 Parent-Child Relationships in Family & Community	EDCI 322 3 Integrated Language & Literacy	PEP 350 3 Elementary Health & Physical Education	
	Stat 150 3 Intro. to Statistics	Math 301 4 Early Childhood Mathematics	EDSP 460 3 Early Childhood Assessment	Elective 3 Elective—Social Science	
	Electives 4 Electives—Science (including lab)		FCS 436 3 Theories of Child & Family Development		
	TOTAL 19	TOTAL 16	TOTAL 15	TOTAL 15	
	SPRING	Comm 101 2 Fundamentals of Public Speaking	EDCI 320 4 Foundations of Literacy Development	EDSP 461 3 Early Childhood SPED Curriculum	Ed 401 3 Professional Role Development
		CORE 153-199 3 Core Discovery Course	EDSP 351 2 Family & Community Involvement	FCS 435 1 Feeding Young Children in Group Settings	EDCI 483 7 Elementary Internship I
		Eng 102 3 College Writing & Rhetoric	Engl 257 or 258 3 Literature of Western Civilization	FCS 497 8 Practicum	EDSP 484 7 Special Education Internship II
FCS 234 3 Infancy & Early Childhood		FCS 205 3 Concepts in Human Nutrition	Elective 3 Elective—English		
Electives 4 Electives—Science (including lab)		FCS 333 4 Developmental Curriculum for Young Children	TOTAL 15		
Elective 3 Elective—Social Science		MusT 381 3 Elementary School Music Methods for Nonmajors	SUMMER		
TOTAL 18		TOTAL 19	EDSP 490 7 Infant Practicum		
			TOTAL 7	TOTAL 17	

Total for degree = 139 credits. Course offerings may change from year to year. Always check the current course catalog.

TO LEARN MORE
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"For my internship in the Child Development Lab, I used my creativity and judgment to plan activities for the children, and my professors observed and gave me feedback."

LAURA SUTTON, *early childhood development and education major*