Duluth Campus

Early Childhood Studies Minor

Education

College of Education and Human Service Professions

- Program Type: Undergraduate free-standing minor
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2022
- Required credits in this minor: 20 to 22

Current research in the field of child development and education emphasizes the importance of early investment in quality programming for young children and families. The recognition of critical periods has altered the landscape of best practices and hence the required competencies for professionals from across disciplines who interface with young children and their families (e.g. social work, psychology, communication sciences and disorders, public health, nursing, occupational and physical therapy, medicine). In response, the Department of Education has designed a minor with an interdisciplinary curriculum. At the core of the minor is the focus on quality services and programming for young children and families.

Quality programming and service provision depends on highly trained professionals from across disciplines. A primary intent of the Early Childhood Minor is to foster the use of an interdisciplinary lens in preservice learners. Courses within the minor afford the opportunity for future professionals in human services related fields to think and work across disciplinary silos. The emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches harnesses the capacity across discipline-specific expertise and increases the likelihood of more seamless and efficient services delivered in future practice.

The Early Childhood Minor is intended to provide students with knowledge and skills designed to support scholarly and community-based work with children and their caregivers. A comprehensive approach to the foundation of child health and well-being is integrated throughout coursework, drawing from fields of infant and early childhood mental health, and interpersonal neurobiology. Emphasis is placed on the integration and application of attachment theory, the neuro-relational underpinnings of development, and the role of reflective capacity in caregiving. Throughout the minor, participants examine aspects of early caregiver-child relationships, the impact of early adverse experiences on brain development, the role of the stress response system, and the importance of protective factors in changing long-term developmental outcomes. Specific course-related activities include infant/toddler observation, reflective supervision, and examination of evidence-based approaches to working with children and families at risk. Further, policy relevant to programs for young children and their families is highlighted and the role of "self" as child advocate is discussed. The research based early childhood curriculum is designed to support students who are preparing to work in areas that focus on children and families.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- partially online (between 50% to 80% of instruction is online)

Admission Requirements

Students must complete 15 credits before admission to the program.

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

Minor Requirements

Core (14 cr)

ECH 2025 - Brain Development: Environments and Relationships [SOC SCI] (3.0 cr)
ECH 3050 - Early Relationships in Young Children: Observing and Guiding (3.0 cr)
SPED 3103 - Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs (3.0 cr)
SPED 3109 - Supporting Social/Emotional Development Birth-8 (3.0 cr)

Electives (6 - 8 cr)

Must take courses from at least 2 subjects.
Take 2 or more course(s) totaling 6 or more credit(s) from the following:

- CSD 3131 - Language Development (3.0 cr)
- ECH 2015 - Literature for Young Children (3.0 cr)
- ENED 4565 - Young Children, Nature, and Sustainability [SUSTAIN] (3.0 cr)
- HLTH 1100 - Health and Wellness Strategies for Life [LE CAT8, SUSTAIN] (3.0 cr)
- HLTH 1470 - Human Nutrition [LE CAT, NAT SCI] (3.0 cr)
- HLTH 3341 - Encountering Death and Grief: A Cross-Cultural Journey [CDIVERSITY] (3.0 cr)
- PSY 1003 - General Psychology [LE CAT, SOC SCI] (4.0 cr)
- PSY 2021 - Developmental Psychology [LE CAT, LECD C, SOC SCI, CDIVERSITY] (3.0 cr)

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•PSY 2023 - Marriages and Families Worldwide [LE CAT, GLOBAL PER] (3.0 cr)
•SW 1000 - Introduction to Social Welfare [SOC SCI] (3.0 cr)
•SW 1619 - Race, Class, and Gender in the United States [LE CAT, LECD C, RACE JUST] (3.0 cr)
•SW 4113 - Introduction to Child Welfare Practice (3.0 cr)

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