EDUCATION

PhD in Early Childhood Education

The Ph.D. program in Early Childhood Education is housed in the Department of Early Childhood Education, in collaboration with the Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Learning and Development, in the Claudius G. Clemmer College of Education.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

FACULTY

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PHD IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The PhD program in Early Childhood Education will develop scholars and leaders in the field of early childhood. The program is guided by the conceptual framework of the Claudius G. Clemmer College of Education at East Tennessee State University and the principles of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

We believe in the vision of NAEYC for educating early childhood leaders. Our candidates will demonstrate the knowledge and skills of the NAEYC Core Standards for Professional Preparation.

Upon completing the program, the doctoral candidates are expected to demonstrate:

- Knowledge and response to culture, language, and ethnicity;
- Teaching knowledge to become early childhood leaders/professionals;
- Knowledge and application of NAEYC ethical principles;
- Ability to access and integrate a wide range of professional resources leading to mastery of relevant theory and research;
- Inquiry skills in conducting research;
- Flexible, diverse skills to work collaboratively and effectively with others;
- A mastery level of oral, written, and technological communication skills;
- Comprehensive skills as an advocate for children and their families.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for the PhD in Early Childhood Education are evaluated once each year for admission in the fall semester. Application information deadline is March 15th. This deadline is flexible until enrollment is filled. The program has a number of fellowships to support full-time doctoral students, and these are awarded on a competitive basis. Admission to the program has the same requirements as existing graduate school requirements plus additional specific requirements:

- Application form
- Application fee ($35 USA or $45 International)
- One official transcript from each institution attended (undergraduate and graduate)
- Personal resume
- Personal essay including a written statement of career and educational goals, professional experience, and area of interest for a dissertation
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores taken within the past 5 years. Preferred scores are 50th percentile or higher
- Four letters of recommendation
- Master’s Degree in Early Childhood or a related field from a regionally accredited university
- Certification of English proficiency for international students. A minimum official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 550 (paper), 213 (computer based), or 79 (Internet based), taken within the past two years; a score of 6.5 on the International English Testing System (IELTS); or have received a degree from an accredited U.S. institution.

CURRICULUM

The PhD requires 69-72 semester hours distributed as follows:

Core Courses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>ECED-6100</td>
<td>Hist. and Theoretical Basis for ECE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED-6200</td>
<td>Implications/Trends &amp; Devl. of Children</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED-6300</td>
<td>Soc. &amp; Cult. Diversity in Families</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED-6400</td>
<td>Seminar in Prof. Devl. and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED-6600</td>
<td>Processes of Language &amp; Literacy Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED-6610</td>
<td>Teaching &amp; Learning Env. &amp; Impacts</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED-6620</td>
<td>Leadership, Admin. &amp; Supervision in ECE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED-6630</td>
<td>Paradigms of Inquiry-Based Constructivism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED-6640</td>
<td>Critical Analysis of Brain Research</td>
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Specialization

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<td>ECED-6610</td>
<td>Teaching &amp; Learning Env. &amp; Impacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED-6640</td>
<td>Critical Analysis of Brain Research</td>
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Collateral

The three collateral courses must be taken in the same academic area, as determined by the student, doctoral advisor, and collateral area advisor.

Other Credits

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<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>ELPA-7810</td>
<td>Educational Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELPA-7811</td>
<td>Quantitative Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELPA-7812</td>
<td>Qualitative Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED-7814</td>
<td>Analysis and Interp. of Research Designs</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED-7950</td>
<td>Advanced Research in EC and Seminar</td>
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<td>ECED-7000</td>
<td>Apprenticeship in Research (*required)</td>
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<td>ECED-7960</td>
<td>Dissertation (3 to 6 hours – repeatable)</td>
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<td>ECED-7990</td>
<td>Reading and Research (1 to 3 hrs – variable credit, if needed)</td>
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Apprenticeship

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<td>ECED-7000*</td>
<td>Apprenticeship in Research (as indicated under research)</td>
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<td>ECED-7001*</td>
<td>Apprenticeship in University Teaching</td>
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<td>ECED-7002*</td>
<td>Apprenticeship in Dvlp. of Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED-7003*</td>
<td>Apprenticeship in Early Intervention</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED-7004*</td>
<td>Apprenticeship in EC Leadership</td>
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ECED PROGRAM VISION

The vision of the Department of Early Childhood Education is to model and inspire lifelong learning and produce professionals who advocate for and create quality early childhood experiences.