East Tennessee State University

ETSU School of Graduate Studies
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East Tennessee State University is a Tennessee Board of Regents institution and is fully in accord with the belief that educational and employment opportunities should be available to all eligible persons without regard to age, gender, color, race, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

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

The vision of the early childhood program is to engage in and encourage lifelong learning and produce teachers, researchers and leaders who advocate for and create quality early childhood experiences in early care and education.

**Curriculum**

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

### Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECED-6100</td>
<td>Hist. and Theoretical Basis for ECE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED-6200</td>
<td>Implications/Trends &amp; Dvlp. of Children</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED-6300</td>
<td>Soc. &amp; Cult. Diversity in Families</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED-6400</td>
<td>Seminar in Prof. Dvlp. and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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### Specialization

- ECED-6600 Processes of Language & Literacy Learning 3
- ECED-6610 Teaching & Learning Env. & Impacts 3
- ECED-6620 Leadership, Admin. & Supervision in ECE 3
- ECED-6630 Paradigms of Inquiry-Based Constructivism 3
- ECED-6640 Critical Analysis of Brain Research 3

### 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

- ELPA-7810 Educational Statistics 3
- ELPA-7811 Quantitative Research 3
- ELPA-7812 Qualitative Research 3
- ECED-7814 Analysis and Interp. of Research Designs 3
- ECED-7950 Advanced Research in EC and Seminar 3
- ECED-7000 Apprenticeship in Research (required) 3
- ECED-7960 Dissertation (3 to 6 hours – repeatable) 12
- ECED-7990 Readings and Research (1 to 3 hrs – variable credit, if needed)

### Apprenticeship

ECED-7000* Apprenticeship in Research (required as indicated under research)

*Choose one or two Apprenticeships in addition to ECED 7000 for a total of 3-6 hrs.

- ECED-7001* Apprenticeship in University Teaching 3
- ECED-7002* Apprenticeship in Dvlp. of Teachers 3
- ECED-7003* Apprenticeship in Early Intervention 3
- ECED-7004* Apprenticeship in EC Leadership 3

**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
- An interview by the admissions committee
- 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 US institution.