Early Childhood Education

Balancing theory and practice

The program of study begins with courses on early childhood development, math and science knowledge of the early childhood educator, and educational research. Teacher candidates are involved in several internship experiences where they make connections with coursework on assessment and evidence-based practices in early childhood. As the program progresses, candidates gain deep content knowledge in language and literacy development, family-team partnerships, emotional and social development, and early intervention. Students gain experience developing an advocacy agenda around young children and their families. A full semester is dedicated to student teaching in an early childhood setting.

Expert faculty and research opportunities

At Elon, you will study and engage in practical experiences alongside expert, active faculty who are committed to excellence and advocacy in the field of early childhood. Early Childhood Education majors enjoy small classes that allow for close working relationships with faculty. Elon welcomes opportunities for undergraduates to engage in research activities with faculty mentoring.

Varied career options

Preschool teacher          Kindergarten teacher
Day care center teacher    Early Head Start teacher
Educational consultant     Head Start teacher
                          Child care center director
Early childhood special education teacher
Children’s Developmental Services Agency
Lobbyist advocating for young children
Children’s museum project coordinator
Early Childhood Minor

2 required courses:
PSY 245—Early Childhood Development
EDU 467—Early Childhood Research, Policy, and Practice

3 electives from the following:
EDU 246—Math and Science for the Early Childhood Educator
EDU 332—Early Childhood Family-Team Partnerships
EDU 333—Supporting Emotional and Social Development in Early Childhood
EDU 454—Early Childhood Language and Literacy
EDU 455—Early Childhood Exceptionality
HSS 212—Counseling Individuals and Families

Complements other majors & minors

"The Early Childhood minor allowed me to interact more with children and community members, which really helped me develop my research ideas in my Psychology major! Being a minor was the best decision I made at Elon!"

Kaitlin Sands '15

"I have had the chance to grow as an educator with the support of Elon’s Early Childhood Program. I have learned about the most current teaching philosophies being used in early childhood classrooms, and have been able to work with skilled cooperating teachers who are well-trained in these philosophies. The time I spent working in a toddler classroom at a Reggio-inspired school led me to realize what I want to do after graduation, and allowed me hands-on experience creating and implementing lesson plans in this nature-based school setting. One thing that is unique to Elon’s Early Childhood Program is the personalized support from my professors, ranging from career advice to celebratory end-of-semester meals to conversations about my research interests. My experiences with these professors and my close-knit ECE cohort have continued to challenge and inspire me throughout my four years at Elon."

Melissa Mischka '15

Contact:
Program Coordinator
Heidi Hollingsworth
hhollingsworth@elon.edu

Courses & other information:
elon.edu/earlychildhood

School of Education
Department of Education