Course Description

Surveys and discusses various models and theories of early childhood education programs including current trends and issues. Reviews state licensing and staff requirements. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

To familiarize the student with perspectives and theoretical views of early childhood programs including an awareness of how both history and present day issues impact program design and curriculum choices.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Functional literacy in the English language; reading at the 12th grade level.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

a) Describe historical and theoretical bases for early childhood education programs
b) Explain the importance of early childhood education to later learning
c) Discuss the practical components of early childhood education, such as licensing standards, sponsorship, regulation, and evaluation
d) Evaluate developmentally appropriate practices in model early childhood programs
e) Articulate a framework for culturally relevant, multicultural, and anti-bias education
f) Distinguish variations in early childhood programs for children with typical and non-typical development
g) Analyze parents’ roles in early childhood education
h) Explain current political and social factors affecting early childhood education programs
i) Identify and apply appropriate learning standards as they relate to early childhood education

Major Topics to be Included

a) Global perspectives in early childhood education
b) The professional’s role as an early childhood educator
c) The changing perspectives of the place of early education in society