CHILDREN’S STUDIES

Early Childhood Learning Environments

Bachelor of Arts

Eastern Washington University's Major in Children's Studies with the Early Childhood Option C is part of a four year BA degree in Children's Studies. The other choice is the Early Childhood Education Option D for a BAE. There is also a minor in Early Childhood Education offered through the Department of education.

The Children’s Studies program focuses on early childhood educators learning about the holistic development and learning of young children from birth to age eight year in a variety of social contexts.

Career Opportunities

Students completing a degree in the Children’s Studies Option C might consider as career such as:

- Head Start/ECEAP teacher
- Child Care Lead Provider,
- Family Child Care/Center Curriculum Specialist
- Lab school educator at a community college
- After-school program director
- Children's museum staff
- Child care licensor
- Foster care supervisor
- Juvenile justice worker
- Family mediator
- Adoption counselor
- Other work in various capacities with young children and their families

Those who wish to work in the public school system need to obtain a teacher certificate and should take Option D: Early Childhood Education leading to the BAE.

Knowledge and Skills

Early Childhood Education focuses on early childhood educators learning about the holistic development and learning of young children from birth to age eight year in a variety of social contexts. Students will have opportunities to apply their learning during field work.

Curriculum

The major is comprised of three parts including: a core curriculum, Option C concentration area in early childhood education, and a culminating senior capstone. The core provides an opportunity for all students to develop a foundational and global perspective of children. The curriculum concentration area will focuses on reflective practices, and opportunities for enhancing understanding of current early childhood perspectives.

The Early Childhood program emphasizes inclusiveness, collaboration, and other means of fostering and sharing resources, knowledge, and philosophies that will contribute to our children’s education and future. Also included is a field-based component that ensures students have practical experiences in which to begin and base their reflective practices.

Education and interdisciplinary courses of 45 credits meet the Early Childhood Education endorsement competencies, WA birth to five benchmarks, and the NAEYC accreditation standards. In the future if you obtain a teaching certificate you can use this major as the background to write the West-E in Early Childhood Education and if passing the Praxis then you will have an ECE endorsement on the certificate.
The university requires all students to take a capstone in their senior year. The capstone will help students summarize and reflect on learning through a portfolio approach.

**Special Features**

The Children’s Studies Major is the only such interdisciplinary ECE major offered by any state university in Washington. The BA in Children’s Studies with the ECE (Option C) is also offered across the state at EWU at BCC and on weekends at Riverpoint in Spokane. The State is increasing the number of preschool spots and Head Start is requiring Head Start Teachers to achieve a BA in ECE, thus this Major will prepare ECE educators for these very important new initiatives. There are many opportunities in the program for networking and collaborating with other ECE professionals and agencies.

**Preparation for Admission**

Admission into the BA in ECE is by transfer from the community college with an AA, DTA, or AAS-T. If entering into EWU as a freshman, please see an advisor for courses that will meet the minimum requirements for beginning the BA.

Children’s Studies Option C: Early Childhood Education majors must have a foreign language before completion of the program. More information about this program and its different options can be found online at www.ewu.edu/education or www.ewu.edu/children.

Prospective students of EWU can apply online via http://www.ewu.edu/admissions or contact the Office of Admissions at (509) 359-2397 to request an application

**For Further Information**

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**The University**

Eastern Washington University is a student-centered, regionally based, comprehensive university. This vision informs and inspires EWU’s future. Its campus is located in Cheney within the Spokane metropolitan area, with additional learning centers in the region and elsewhere in Washington State.

**Note:**

Information in this guide is subject to change without notice. To learn more about the official program of study, please check the catalog online at: http://www.ewu.edu/x15588.xml