

Early Childhood Studies

Honours Bachelor of Applied Science Diploma in Early Childhood Education

Admission

- >ENG4U and five additional 4U/M courses
- >Estimated minimum range for admission: 75%-80%

Focused Academic Program

Our program focuses on the physical, emotional, social and cognitive development of young children from birth to eight years. First-year students are introduced to the domains of childhood development and theories and foundations of early childhood. In their second year, students learn the basics of human anatomy and physiology; how to create curriculum; observation and research skills; and dynamics of relationships.

In years three and four, students learn how to work educationally and therapeutically with children and families. Students will develop a comprehensive set of abilities to assess children's development; support and educate children in a meaningful way; understand how to create interventions; and know how to work with children in a variety of settings.

Upon graduation students can become a Registered Early Childhood Educator.

Sample First-Year Courses

>Foundations of Early Childhood

Introduces the student to the importance of early childhood services. Provides an overview of occupational standards and personal career potential and opportunity. Consideration is given to the philosophical tenets, curriculum models, legal requirements, and research indicators that reflect high quality care and service.

>Infant Development

Examines physical, neurological, motor, cognitive, language, social, and emotional development of young children from the prenatal period to early childhood (approximately ages 0 to 2).

>Field Placement I

Through seminar discussions, tours to community agencies, and job shadowing in the workplace, students develop an understanding of the regulations and mandates of various programs in early childhood services and the components of quality programming associated with each.

Industry Connections: More than 750 Hours

Students complete more than 750 hours of workplace experience. Past placements include classrooms, hospital child life units, children's mental health centres, inclusive learning and therapeutic environments, early learning centres and community-based/advocacy organizations.

- >**Placement 1:** Job shadowing will help introduce students to the range of job opportunities available.
- >**Placement 2:** Experience an early learning and child care setting.
- >**Placement 3:** Participate in a placement related to inclusion and special needs.
- >**Placement 4:** Gain knowledge in community-based organizations.
- >**Placements 5 & 6:** Building on previous experience, students select a year-long setting tailored to their career aspirations and knowledge base.

Note: Students will be required to complete a Vulnerable Sector Screening, documentation of immunization and a First Aid/CPR certificate prior to placement.

Tools of the Trade

Our extensive collection of educational and therapeutic materials and toys in the Early Childhood Studies Resource Room is available to students as a source of materials to borrow for use at their placements.

Changing How We Learn

Our Early Childhood Studies (ECS) program is thrilled to offer students an exciting new learning/teaching experience. After an extensive renovation, our ECS room demonstrates how learning environments embrace diversity and inclusion for children by supporting different learning styles and using a variety of modern teaching tools.

Seat choices include a bicycle desk, movable desks, “wobble chairs” and height-adjustable standing desks. Five digital Smart Boards encircle the room and can be synchronized or used as individual screens accessed by teachers and students using apps on a phone, tablet or computer. Individual-sized whiteboards are also on hand. Lessons can be recorded and shared after class.

Our ECS students utilize the classroom throughout their studies.

International Hands-on Experience

Study Abroad (10 to 12 days)

In the International Field Study course, students are part of a small group on professor-guided study tours where concepts discussed in class are put into context. And because all study abroad courses are partially subsidized by the University, the opportunities are within reach.

This year, the ECS-themed study abroad is targeting Denmark. Students will visit an outdoor education classroom in Odense where they will conduct studies in/with nature. In Billund, students will explore the impact of the timeless children’s toy Lego and the notable Hans Christian Andersen fairytales such as *The Little Mermaid* on the development of children. The trip’s focus on the child–through the understanding of Denmark, its people, education, society and culture–exposes students to an interesting perspective on childhood development.

Although trips are themed according to a specific program, students may apply for any study abroad of interest.

Community Outreach

Program head Dr. Nikki Martyn and assistant program head Elena Merenda organize ECS student volunteers to assist community projects. Students have served meals at Ronald McDonald House and appeared on the TV show “Towards Social Justice” for which they developed and demonstrated therapeutic play.

Transfer Pathways

College-to-University

Students who choose to attend college have the potential to continue their postsecondary studies at university.

Block credit transfer pathway

Students can complete an Early Childhood Education diploma from a recognized institution and receive 10 transfer credits that will be applied towards completion of the ECS program. Students can finish their studies in two years. Applicants require a minimum cumulative average of 75%.

Need more information? Contact us.

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