



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
Early Childhood
Education

PhD in EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



The PhD program in Early Childhood
Education is housed in the Department
of Early Childhood Education.

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Curriculum

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

Core Courses

Course	Title	Hours
ECED-6100	Hist. and Theoretical Basis for ECE	3
ECED-6200	Implications/Trends & Dvlp. of Children	3
ECED-6300	Soc. & Cult. Diversity in Families	3
ECED-6400	Seminar in Prof. Dvlp. and Leadership	3

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
ECED-7811	Early Childhood Quantitative Research	3
ECED-7812	Early Childhood 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 6 hrs – variable credit, if needed)	

Apprenticeship

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

ECED Program Vision

Inspire. Advocate. Impact.

PhD in Early Childhood 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 Clemmer College 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.



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 résumé
- 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 U.S. institution.