

# Early Childhood Studies

## What is EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES?

The department of Early Childhood Studies offers programs to students who are interested in learning about child development and early education.

The discipline of Early Childhood Studies answers questions such as:

- What are the best ways to support optimal child development?
- How does stress and trauma affect child development?
- Why do children play and how does it contribute to a child's development?
- How do early experiences contribute to achievement gaps and other social inequalities?

In our courses, students learn theory, research, and skills that help early childhood professionals in a variety of fields to provide optimal services for children and families. Students in this field also learn new ways to think about the role of children and families in our society and what it means to be a "good parent." Many of our courses include field experiences, which allow students to apply what they are learning in classrooms and clinical settings.

## Degree PLANS

**Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Studies**  
with concentrations in **Early Childhood Development**, **Early Childhood Education** and **Integrated Teacher Education Program**  
**Minor in Early Childhood Studies**  
**Master of Arts in Education** with an emphasis in *Early Childhood Education*



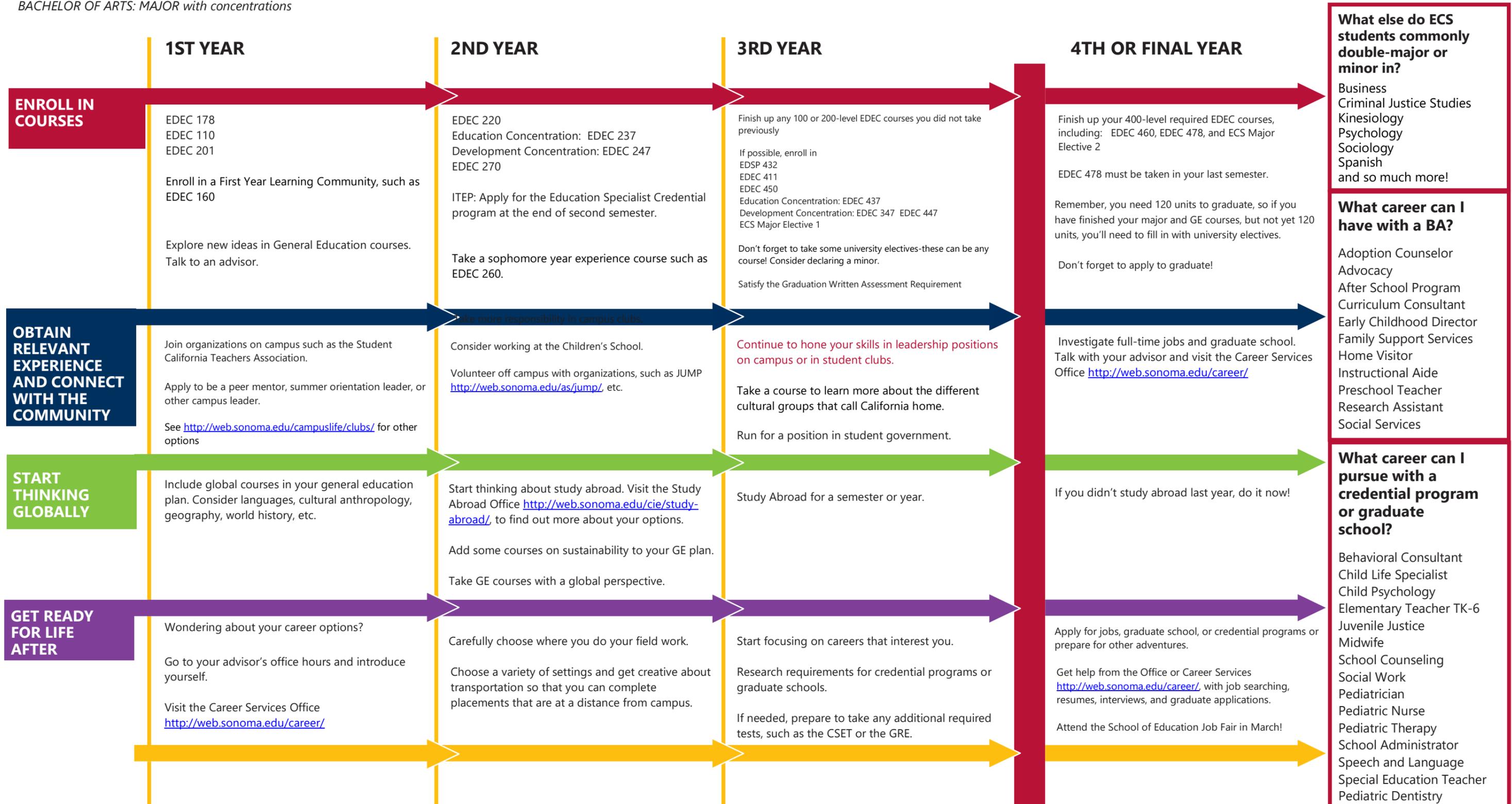
## The Early Childhood Studies Mission Statement

*"The Department of Early Childhood Studies prepares knowledgeable and caring professionals who are committed to contributing to a just society through high-quality education and social service for all children and families."*



# EARLY CHILDHOOD MAJOR MAP

BACHELOR OF ARTS: MAJOR with concentrations



\*This map is intended to provide suggestions for potential activities and career paths, but everyone's abilities, experience, and constraints are different.

# Succeed in the workplace

## What employers want

According to the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the top ten things employers look for in new college careers are:

- 1 The ability to work well as part of diverse teams
- 2 An understanding of science and technology as they are used in everyday life
- 3 The ability to communicate well in writing and orally
- 4 The ability to analyze and solve complex problems
- 5 The ability to analyze a problem to develop workable solutions
- 6 An understanding of our global context
- 7 The ability to be creative and innovative in solving problems
- 8 The ability to transfer knowledge and skills to new problems and new settings
- 9 The ability to understand numbers and statistics
- 10 A strong sense of ethics and integrity

In Early Childhood Studies, we emphasize writing and critical thinking skills in every course. We have a common framework that will help you to systematically and consistently think through complex issues, develop solutions, and communicate what you know clearly. We also encourage you, throughout your studies, to apply what you are learning in the SSU General Education program to the courses in your major or minor. We encourage you to think about how courses in other disciplines can help you to understand yourself, to enhance your professional career, and to become a more informed citizen in our global democracy.

## What can I learn studying EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES?

- **Knowledge of the stages of child development and the factors that influence development**
- **How to read and understand research studies and scholarly journal articles on child development and education in the early years**
- **Knowledge of child behavior and how to effectively provide guidance**
- **Observation techniques and how to use the results of your observations to make decisions about practice**
- **Insight on how to interact effectively with families from different backgrounds and how to show concern and sensitivity to others**
- **Critical and inferential thinking to analyze and interpret information**
- **Oral and written communication skills for sharing what you know**
- **Professional codes of ethics in the professions that serve children and families**

## Get the help you need

Early Childhood Questions [www.sonoma.edu/education/ecs/advising](http://www.sonoma.edu/education/ecs/advising)

How to Apply to SSU [www.admissions.sonoma.edu/how-apply](http://www.admissions.sonoma.edu/how-apply)

Admissions Counselor [www.admissions.sonoma.edu/experience/ask](http://www.admissions.sonoma.edu/experience/ask)



## Why study at Sonoma State?

Located in California's premier wine country one hour north of San Francisco, Sonoma State is a small campus with big ideas. With a tradition of promoting intellectual and personal growth, leadership opportunities and technological proficiency, SSU offers its students a friendly, safe and informal atmosphere on a beautiful campus setting.

Sonoma State students shape their education to support their dreams. Small classes in the liberal arts teach the fundamentals. Advanced classes in sciences, technology, education, performing arts and business prepare students for their chosen profession. A Sonoma State education prepares you to shine in your life and career.

Sonoma State has 9,300 students most of whom are undergraduates. They come to SSU from across the USA and the world, with a majority from California.

