

# 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

## 1ST YEAR

## 2ND YEAR

## 3RD YEAR

## 4TH OR FINAL YEAR

### ENROLL IN COURSES

EDEC 178  
EDEC 110  
EDEC 201

Enroll in a First Year Learning Community, such as EDEC 160

Explore new ideas in General Education courses. Talk to an advisor.

EDEC 220  
Education Concentration: EDEC 237  
Development Concentration: EDEC 247  
EDEC 270

ITEP: Apply for the Education Specialist Credential program at the end of second semester.

Take a sophomore year experience course such as EDEC 260.

Finish up any 100 or 200-level EDEC courses you did not take previously

If possible, enroll in  
EDSP 432  
EDEC 411  
EDEC 450  
Education Concentration: EDEC 437  
Development Concentration: EDEC 347 EDEC 447  
ECS Major Elective 1

Don't forget to take some university electives-these can be any course! Consider declaring a minor.

Satisfy the Graduation Written Assessment Requirement

Finish up your 400-level required EDEC courses, including: EDEC 460, EDEC 478, and ECS Major Elective 2

EDEC 478 must be taken in your last semester.

Remember, you need 120 units to graduate, so if you have finished your major and GE courses, but not yet 120 units, you'll need to fill in with university electives.

Don't forget to apply to graduate!

### OBTAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY

Join organizations on campus such as the Student California Teachers Association.

Apply to be a peer mentor, summer orientation leader, or other campus leader.

See <http://web.sonoma.edu/campuslife/clubs/> for other options

Take more responsibility in campus clubs.

Consider working at the Children's School.

Volunteer off campus with organizations, such as JUMP <http://web.sonoma.edu/as/jump/>, etc.

Continue to hone your skills in leadership positions on campus or in student clubs.

Take a course to learn more about the different cultural groups that call California home.

Run for a position in student government.

Investigate full-time jobs and graduate school. Talk with your advisor and visit the Career Services Office <http://web.sonoma.edu/career/>

### START THINKING GLOBALLY

Include global courses in your general education plan. Consider languages, cultural anthropology, geography, world history, etc.

Start thinking about study abroad. Visit the Study Abroad Office <http://web.sonoma.edu/cie/study-abroad/>, to find out more about your options.

Add some courses on sustainability to your GE plan.

Take GE courses with a global perspective.

Study Abroad for a semester or year.

If you didn't study abroad last year, do it now!

### GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER

Wondering about your career options?

Go to your advisor's office hours and introduce yourself.

Visit the Career Services Office <http://web.sonoma.edu/career/>

Carefully choose where you do your field work.

Choose a variety of settings and get creative about transportation so that you can complete placements that are at a distance from campus.

Start focusing on careers that interest you.

Research requirements for credential programs or graduate schools.

If needed, prepare to take any additional required tests, such as the CSET or the GRE.

Apply for jobs, graduate school, or credential programs or prepare for other adventures.

Get help from the Office of Career Services <http://web.sonoma.edu/career/>, with job searching, resumes, interviews, and graduate applications.

Attend the School of Education Job Fair in March!

### What else do ECS students commonly double-major or minor in?

Business  
Criminal Justice Studies  
Kinesiology  
Psychology  
Sociology  
Spanish  
and so much more!

### What career can I have with a BA?

Adoption Counselor  
Advocacy  
After School Program  
Curriculum Consultant  
Early Childhood Director  
Family Support Services  
Home Visitor  
Instructional Aide  
Preschool Teacher  
Research Assistant  
Social Services

### What career can I pursue with a credential program or graduate school?

Behavioral Consultant  
Child Life Specialist  
Child Psychology  
Elementary Teacher TK-6  
Juvenile Justice  
Midwife  
School Counseling  
Social Work  
Pediatrician  
Pediatric Nurse  
Pediatric Therapy  
School Administrator  
Speech and Language  
Special Education Teacher  
Pediatric Dentistry

\*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.

