# Early Childhood Education and Programming

## Curriculum in Early Childhood Education and Programming

The Early Childhood Education and Programming (ECP) curriculum, offered by the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GPIDEA), is designed to prepare graduates to work in a variety of early care and education programs in local communities and on military installations. Some of these programs are childcare centers and homes, infant/toddler and preschool programs, Head Start programs, and before and after-school programs for children ages birth to eight. This is an online program offered through a collaboration of seven universities as part of GPIDEA. The program is known as Early Care and Education for a Mobile Society. For more information see http://www.hsidea.org/programs/ece/.

The ECP curriculum is designed to provide content for the final two years of a student's program; the content is focused specifically on topics directly relevant to the major. Students will complete a total of 120 credits for the major, 51 of which are specific to the ECP curriculum. These 51 credit hours are comprised of 12 core courses and 3 practica; the final practicum will be a 6-credit capstone experience. Students must complete the required 30 credits of college work and a lifespan development course before being admitted to ECP. If students prefer to be admitted to ISU before being admitted to the ECP major, they can enroll as Pre ECP (P ECP) students until they are eligible for the ECP major. For more information about the program at Iowa State, see http://www.online.hs.iastate.edu/ecp.

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Administered by the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. Leading to the degree bachelor of science.

## Total Credits Required: 120

### Communications and Library: 13 credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 150</td>
<td>Critical Thinking and Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
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### Natural Sciences and Mathematical Disciplines: 9-10 credits

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 250</td>
<td>Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIB 160</td>
<td>Information Literacy</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>One of the following:</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMST 102</td>
<td>Introduction to Interpersonal Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMST 218</td>
<td>Conflict Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>SP CM 212</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Public Speaking</td>
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<td>One of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 302</td>
<td>Business Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 309</td>
<td>Proposal and Report Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 314</td>
<td>Technical Communication</td>
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### Social Sciences: 9 credits

Select from HD FS list of approved social sciences courses

### Humanities: 6 credits

Select from HD FS list of approved humanities courses

### Human Development and Family Studies Core: 3.5 credits

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HD FS 102</td>
<td>Individual and Family Development, Health, and Well-being</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD FS 103</td>
<td>Professional Principles for Working With Children and Youth</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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### Early Childcare Education and Programming Professional Core: 51 credits

#### Block One

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECP 201</td>
<td>Child Development – Ages Birth to 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECP 202</td>
<td>Child Development – Ages 4 to 8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECP 305</td>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECP 306</td>
<td>Health, Safety, and Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECP 307</td>
<td>Child Guidance and Classroom Environments</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECP 320</td>
<td>Practicum I – Child Observations in Classroom Environments</td>
<td>3</td>
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#### Block Two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECP 412</td>
<td>Development of Curriculum for Children Ages Birth to 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECP 413</td>
<td>Development of Curriculum for Children Ages 4 to 8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Electives: 27.5-28.5 credits  
Total credits: 120 credits  
Courses primarily for undergraduates:

**ECP 201: Child Development – Ages Birth to 3**  
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.  
Prereq: HD FS 102  
Development from birth to age three. Major theories and research on development will be covered including growth patterns, the influences of disabilities and risk factors, environmental factors and their effects on attachment styles, language acquisition, brain development, cognitive development, social-emotional development, and perceptual and sensory motor skills.

**ECP 202: Child Development – Ages 4 to 8**  
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.  
Prereq: HD FS 102  
Development from ages four through eight. Major theories and research on development will be covered including growth patterns, the influences of disabilities and risk factors, environmental factors and their effects on attachment styles, language acquisition, brain development, cognitive development, social-emotional development, and perceptual and sensory motor skills.

**ECP 305: Professional Development**  
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.  
Prereq: HD FS 102  
Exploring the role of a professional as a teacher, administrator or advocate in early childhood programming. Students will learn about professionalism and ethics, identifying child abuse, and applying universal precautions. Discussion of qualities of the early childhood educator role, program models, and working with children and professional colleagues.

**ECP 306: Health, Safety, and Nutrition**  
(3-0) Cr. F.S.  
Prereq: HD FS 102  
Important elements for planning, promoting and maintaining healthy and safe learning/care environments, understanding childhood illnesses and establishing healthy lifestyles, first aid, and care providers maintaining their own health. Maintaining safe relationships with others, including identifying and reporting abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children. Exploration of nutrients for life and feeding, food preparation and safety policies and guidelines, food allergies and intolerances, appropriate feeding practices.

**ECP 307: Child Guidance and Classroom Environments**  
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.  
Prereq: HD FS 102  
Working knowledge of developmentally appropriate practice in child guidance. This goal will be accomplished through review of current guidance methods and programs in order to familiarize students with successful guidance techniques. By the end of this course, students will develop their own approach to guidance based upon practices best suited to their own unique skills and strengths.

**ECP 320: Practicum I – Child Observations in Classroom Environments**  
(0-6) Cr. 3.  
Prereq: ECP 201, ECP 202, ECP 305, ECP 306, ECP 307, HD FS 103  
Practicum in Early Childhood Education is an opportunity for ECP teacher candidates to have a guided learning experience in a professional agency that provides services to children and families. It is expected that learning experiences and projects at the practicum site will provide teacher candidates with the opportunity to utilize and implement theories and practices learned in other ECP classes.

**ECP 322: Diversity in the Lives of Young Children and Families**  
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.  
Prereq: HD FS 102  
Exploration of cultural diversity in daily life and beliefs in families with young children. The focus is on U.S. families, with attention to the multiple cultures from which they come.

**ECP 323: Working with Families**  
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.  
Prereq: HD FS 102  
Application of an ecological model to the understanding of variation in parental roles, perspectives, relationships, approaches, and challenges.

**ECP 324: Technology and Young Children**  
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.  
Prereq: HD FS 102  
Impact of electronic technology on the development of young children in educational, home, and community environments, and how technology can be used to enhance teaching and learning. Students will be critical thinkers and informed consumers of technology related to young children.
E CP 412: Development of Curriculum for Children Ages Birth to 3
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.
Prereq: E CP 201, E CP 202, E CP 305, E CP 306, E CP 307, E CP 320
Curriculum development related to children from birth to age 3: (1) learn and utilize assessment and documentation to inform curriculum, (2) plan and evaluate developmentally appropriate activities, and (3) learn about effective ways to share curriculum information with families. All areas of developmental domains and content areas; issues related to diversity in family composition, culture, and individual abilities will also be addressed.

E CP 413: Development of Curriculum for Children Ages 4 to 8
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.
Prereq: E CP 201, E CP 202, E CP 305, E CP 306, E CP 307, E CP 320
Development of curriculum for children ages 4 to 8 years: (1) learn and utilize assessment and documentation to inform curriculum, (2) plan and evaluate developmentally appropriate activities, and (3) learn about effective ways to share curriculum information with families. This course addresses all areas of developmental domains and content areas, and issues related to diversity in family composition, culture, and individual abilities will also be addressed.

E CP 424: Assessing Young Children and Their Environments to Enhance Development
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.
Prereq: E CP 201, E CP 202, E CP 305, E CP 306, E CP 307, E CP 320
Students will learn to select, evaluate, and use appropriate assessment tools for children birth to age 8. Students will use assessment data to inform decisions about teaching (environments and practice) and intervention. There will be an emphasis on the ethical use of assessments, validity of assessments, multicultural sensitivity, and assessments for children with special needs.

E CP 425: Understanding and Adapting for Developmental Differences
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.
Prereq: E CP 201, E CP 202, E CP 305, E CP 306, E CP 307, E CP 320
Knowledge of disability conditions, assessment and identification, interventions in inclusive environments, and collaborations among family members and service providers.

E CP 440: Practicum II – Curriculum Development and Implementation
(0-6) Cr. 3. F.S.
Prereq: E CP 412, E CP 413, E CP 424, E CP 425
Practicum in Early Childhood Education is an opportunity for ECE teacher candidates to have a guided learning experience in a professional agency that provides services to children and families. It is expected that learning experiences and projects at the practicum site will provide teacher candidates with the opportunity to utilize and implement theories and practices learned in other required classes.

E CP 442: Administration and Supervision in Early Childhood Settings
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.
Prereq: HD FS 102
Exploration of issues surrounding the administration of early childhood programs including identification of community needs, analysis of business opportunities, the evaluation and appropriate use of space and quality programming, consideration of policy and legal responsibilities, and professionalism in the field. In addition, the course explores best practices in staff selection, training, coaching, and supervision.

E CP 460: Practicum III – Capstone Experience
(0-12) Cr. 6. F.S.
Prereq: E CP 322, E CP 323, E CP 324, E CP 440, E CP 442
Professional practicum as a 15 week experience designed to allow the student to demonstrate practical application of developmentally appropriate early childhood teaching techniques and skills, actual teaching experience and developmental feedback. Practicum students will be involved in observation and evaluation of classroom experiences, environmental design, classroom management, and parent communication.