Early Childhood Education, BS, BA

Emphases: Language Arts; Social Studies; Science/Mathematics; Science; Fine Arts; Art; English as a Second Language; Music; Physical Education; Health/Wellness/Nutrition; Mathematics; Foreign Language; School Library Media
Department: Family, Consumer, and Human Development Department; School of Teacher Education and Leadership
College: Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services; Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services

Overview

About This Degree

Those who graduate in early childhood education are qualified to teach in preschool settings and are can become licensed to teach kindergarten through third grade. All students gain a broad knowledge in early childhood education subjects and then choose an emphasis to study more thoroughly. Students may choose more than one emphasis, but only one is required.

Students are also required to participate in practicums and field experiences. Utah State's program in early childhood education is unique in that students have the opportunity to work with children starting their first year in the program rather than waiting until their junior year, which is typical at other universities. By the time students graduate, they will have spent more than 600 hours in eight different practicum experiences.

USU's Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services is ranked 10th in the nation among colleges of education in external research dollars.

Students receive a **BS** by completing all required courses in the major. To receive a **BA**, students must also gain proficiency in one or more foreign languages.

Distance Education

The BS in early childhood education, including the emphases, is available through USU's Regional Campuses and Distance Education program.

Career Options

Students who graduate in early childhood education are qualified to teach preschool and to be licensed to teach grades K-3. They can also work in the following areas:

- Child care
- Head start
- Home start
- Early intervention specialist
- Child welfare worker

Career Services provides counseling and information on hundreds of job and internship opportunities and even helps students apply and interview.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

In addition to Utah State University's admissions requirements, the early childhood education program has additional requirements:

- **Freshmen:** New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission to the pre-major.
- **Transfer students:** Transfer students from other institutions and students transferring from other USU majors need a 2.75 total GPA for admission to this major.
- **Teacher Education Program Requirements:** In order to become an early childhood education major, students must be accepted into the teacher education program, which includes the following:

- Completion of 30 semester credits with a minimum GPA of 2.75
- Complete certain core courses (see department for more information)
- Complete a speech and hearing test
- Pass the Teacher Education Writing Exam
- Pass a criminal background check (this should be done one semester before applying)
- Pass the Praxis II elementary education content knowledge exam (this should be done at least one semester prior to applying)
- Participate in a group interview and earn a minimum score of three

International students have additional admissions requirements.

Major Requirements

Click here to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Science**.

Click here to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Arts**.

Contact

Advising

All new USU students participate in a New Student Orientation program, where they receive detailed information about major requirements, registering for classes, and other important advising information.

Advising Center
School of Teacher Education and Leadership
Office: EDUC 385
Phone: (435) 797-0385
Email: teal@usu.edu

Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

Utah Association for the Education of the Young – USU: This association's main goal is to improve the quality of early childhood education for young children and their families through activities and experiences that improve professional practices in early childhood education, build public understanding and support, and build and maintain a strong, diverse, and inclusive organization.

Phi Upsilon Omicron: Phi Upsilon Omicron is a national honor society. Its purposes are to recognize and encourage academic excellence, develop qualities of professional and personal leadership, provide opportunities for service to the profession, and encourage professional and personal commitment to the area of family and consumer sciences.

Labs, Centers, Research

With the second oldest undergraduate research program in the nation, USU offers students a wide range of opportunities to gain hands-on research experience. The Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities program allows students to apply for grants and receive funding. USU's Honors Program prepares students for excellent graduate programs by helping them build relationships with professors, participate in research projects, take smaller, more intensive classes, and develop leadership skills.

Adele and Dale Young Child Development Laboratory: This laboratory provides a variety of programs for children birth to 12 years old. Faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students conduct research to better understand individual development and family relationships across the life span. They use the information gained through research to better aid the development of social competency skills in the children they serve. Each program in the laboratory is designed to provide children with a wide variety of developmentally appropriate divergent activities, a stimulating multisensory environment, and opportunities for discovery and making choices, interpersonal interactions, and independence-promoting situations.

Dolores Doré Eccles Center for Early Care and Education: This center provides child care for young children of students, staff, and faculty at USU. Students studying early childhood education are able to work with children to provide an emotionally positive, healthy, and nurturing environment, as well as earn academic credit. Students plan developmentally appropriate activities and experiences that enhance each child's social, emotional, cognitive, language, and physical development.

Edith Bowen Laboratory School: EBLS is one of Utah's charter schools, offering services to more than 300 students grades K-5. The school, in cooperation with Utah State University, trains more than 200 pre-service teachers preparing to become professional educators, as well as supporting several other departments/colleges on campus, including special education, physical education, music, psychology, and business. Because the school is funded through state funds and donations, no tuition is charged to students.

Emma Eccles Jones Center for Early Childhood Education: This center provides educational experiences and resources for teachers and parents that reflect the development of children from birth through age eight.