



CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

General Departmental Information

The undergraduate ECE major is a course of study for persons wishing to teach children in preschool programs or in the K-3 grade levels of public schools. Students who elect this major are strongly advised to simultaneously complete the Elementary Education major (see a department advisor as to how this may be effectively accomplished).

Included in the 45-credit ECE major are courses which provide practical classroom experience with children, curriculum and materials development, child development and parent education and involvement.

Student transferring from a community college with a major emphasis in ECE and with Basic and Breadth requirements completed will ordinarily be able to complete the bachelor's degree in two academic years.

A 24-credit undergraduate ECE minor is available to students in any area who wish to gain knowledge and skills relating to the development and teaching of young children. The minor emphasizes practical application of child development, curriculum and parent involvement to classroom teaching. This minor can lead to a Washington State ECE Teaching Endorsement (P-3) if combined with an elementary education major.

The philosophy of the ECE division is person-centered. We respond to the student's or child's individual needs, interests and goals in a conscious, committed manner. Models, which emphasize individualized and personalized learning through child-selected activities and consistent self-evaluation, are being defined so they may be adapted and used by teachers and children in any educational setting. Further, abundant practical experience with children is provided. ECE truly expects and supports learning by doing.

Students who elect the ECE major must also complete the Professional Education Program.

Career Opportunities

Preparation in Early Childhood Education leads to employment and career opportunities such as the following:

- preschool teacher
- day care provider

*Students must be fully admitted to the teacher preparation program as well as to the university before enrolling in education courses.

Programs Offered at a CWU Center

The ECE major and teacher certification requirements are offered as an Extended Degree program in the Seattle and Yakima areas.

CWU SeaTac Center

Mailing: P.O. Box 13490;
Des Moines, WA 98198-9800

Location: Highline Community College
(206) 439-3800,
FAX (206) 439-3809

CWU Yakima Center

Mailing: P.O. Box 22520;
Yakima, WA 98907-1647

Location: Yakima Valley Community College
Deccio Bldg.
Yakima, WA 98907
(509) 574-6894
FAX (509) 454-7601

For Further Information, Contact:

Department of Education
Central Washington University
400 E. University Way
Ellensburg, WA 98926-7409
Phone: (509) 963-1461
Website: <http://www.cwu.edu/~ceps/earchldedu.html>

CWU official online catalog:
<http://www.cwu.edu/catalogs.html>

Admission and Transfer Requirements:
<http://www.cwu.edu/~cwuadmis/>

CWU Office of Admissions
(866) CWU-4YOU (298-4968)

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