

Southern Connecticut State University
Undergraduate Early Childhood Program
Education Department

(Integrated Early Childhood/Special Ed., N-K-Elem. 1-3 Certification)

General Information

The Education Department offers this innovative program to prepare teachers of young children. Successful graduates in Undergraduate Early Childhood Certification program will be authorized to teach in both special and regular education settings at the nursery/preschool and kindergarten levels, and in regular education settings in grades one through three.

The Early Childhood Program at Southern incorporates an interdisciplinary approach to give college students a rich understanding of child development, early childhood curriculum, and teaching strategies. It provides both theoretical knowledge and practical experiences to prepare students to be capable, responsive educators. Students will gain the skills to work in inclusive settings.

Admission to the Program

To be admitted to the undergraduate early childhood program, students must first be accepted to the University. The undergraduate catalog and application are available from the Admissions Office at 203.392.5656 or from SCSU website at www.southernct.edu/admissions.

In addition, students must meet the following requirements established by the School of Education that are consistent with certification requirements in the State of Connecticut. These requirements are as follows:

1. Exhibit an educational background in the arts and humanities, mathematics, science, social and behavioral sciences, health, and physical education as required by the university.
2. Pass the state-mandated skills examination (Praxis I) in mathematics, reading, and writing. Information on Praxis I can be found at http://www.state.ct.us/sde/dtl/cert/prax0102/praxchrt_pr1.htm or at www.ets.org.

Praxis exam can be waived if (a) you present a combined score of 1,100 or higher on the SAT with no less than a score of 400 on the both the verbal and math sections; or (b) present a composite score of 24 or more on the ACT with no less than 22 on the English subtest and no less than 19 on the math subtest. The Praxis I exam scores should be taken early enough so that the candidates scores will be available when applicant is applying for admission to the teacher certification program.

3. Maintain a minimum 2.7 QPR (B- overall average) for all undergraduate courses (regardless of whether that coursework was taken at SCSU).
4. Must have completed EDU 206 (Principles of Early Childhood) or an equivalent course (based on determination of equivalency by Education Dept. faculty).

5. Complete or in the process of completing MAT 105 and Eng 112: Composition.
6. Must pass an essay written on site.
7. Submit letters of recommendations from each of two persons who are able to testify to the student's suitability as a teacher.
8. Complete an interview by a departmental admissions committee that will assess the student's personal attributes that will affect her or his teaching performances.

Retention in the Program:

For admissions and retention in the program

1. Candidates must maintain a 2.7 QPR (B-) and receive final grades of "C" or better in all EDU/SED courses.
2. Any candidate who receives a final grade of "C-" or lower in an EDU or SED course must retake the course and may continue in the program if s/he earns a "C" or better. If a candidate falls below the 2.7 QPR, s/he is placed on School of Education Academic Probation and has one semester to raise the QPR to 2.7 or higher. Failure to do so results in dismissal from the School of Education.
3. As part of the assessment system for the program, students must receive "acceptable" scores on portfolios submitted at each of four gates in the program.
4. All candidates must also demonstrate professional dispositions or conduct throughout the program of study. Failure to demonstrate the necessary values, commitments, and professional ethics for teaching can lead to a recommendation for dismissal from the program. A departmental committee, the Student Evaluation and Advisement Committee (SEAC), addresses concerns related to conduct and academics and charts a course for improvement.

Certification

Upon successful completion of the program students will be recommended for certification. A positive recommendation for certification requires that students:

1. Complete state and university General Education Program or Liberal Arts Program Requirements.
2. Complete a content area major outside the field of Education.
3. Complete all required professional courses and student teaching experiences.
4. Complete a final portfolio.
5. Complete Praxis II: Early Childhood Content Knowledge (test code 0022) and Education of Young Children (test code 0021).
6. Complete the Foundations of Reading test if seeking certification beginning on or after July 2009.

Undergraduate Early Childhood (N-Grade 3 Certification) Related Course Work

Students are expected to work closely with an advisor throughout their program to ensure that all program requirements are met. The following courses are required for the program:

1. **All University Requirements**: 43-45 credits (and any necessary prerequisite courses) credit in general academic courses, including U.S. History, Natural Sciences, Social Studies; English, Mathematics (Mat 105, Mat 106), and Foreign Language, or Fine Arts.
2. **Human Growth and Development**: Minimum 15 credits are required.
 - **Psy 100**: Introduction to Psychology (3 credits)
 - **Psy 210**: Developmental Psychology (3 cr.)
 - **PSY 313**: Cognitive Psychology (3 cr.)
 - **PSY 370/371**: Educational Psychology (3 cr.)
 - **EDU 322**: Family, School, and Community Partnerships (3 cr.)
3. **Subject Area Major other than Professional Education**: The State of Connecticut requires a subject area major other than professional education for certification. Therefore, graduates of Southern's Early Childhood Program must have two majors—Early Childhood Education and a subject area major—and will receive a double baccalaureate upon graduation. To meet this subject area requirement, the Education Department strongly recommends a Psychology major, which incorporates psychology courses required in the Early Childhood.
4. **Professional Education Requirements or B.S. in Early Childhood**: Minimum 36 credits.

To Be Taken **Before Admission to the Early Childhood Program** **Core I (Pre Admission Gate)**

- EDU 206: Principles of Early Childhood Education (3 cr.)
- SED 225: Introduction to Exceptionalities; or SED 481: Teaching Exceptional Children in the Elementary Classrooms (3 cr.)

To be taken **Only After Admission to the Early Childhood Program**:

Core2 (Gate 2: Midway to Program Completion (Junior Year)

- EDU 308: Language Arts and Children's Literature—Early Childhood (3 cr.)
- EDU 309: Curriculum Design and Methods for Preschool and Kindergarten (3 cr.)
- SED 235: Early Childhood Special Education for Exceptional Individuals (3 cr.)
- PHI 370: Philosophy of Education (3 cr.)

Core3 (Gate 2: Midway to Program Completion (Junior Year)

- EDU 312: Integrated Curriculum in the Primary Classrooms (3 cr.)

- EDU 318: Reading (Early Childhood) (3 cr.)
- IDS 471: English Language Learners in the Classroom. (1.5 cr.)
- SHE 203: School Health (3 cr.)

Core 4 (Gate 3-Advance Program (Senior Year)

- EDU 319: Mathematics, Science, and Technology for Early Childhood Education (3 cr.)
- EDU 322: Family, School, and Community Partnerships (3 cr.)
- SED 365: Basic Principles of Academic Assessment & Remediation for Exceptional Individuals (3 cr.)

Core 5 (Gate 4: Program Completion (Senior Year)

- **Student Teaching: (a) EDU 300:** full day student teaching experience at the nursery or kindergarten level in an inclusive setting (6 cr.); **(b) EDU 400-** ten-week, full day student teaching experience in grades 1, 2, or 3 (6 cr.).
- **Student Teaching Seminar : EDU 485** (1.5 cr.).

Transfer Students

1. The Early Childhood Program at SCSU has developed an **articulation agreement** with **regional community colleges**. If you are transferring from a community college (participating in the Connecticut Early Childhood Articulation Plan) and have an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and meet all requirements for entry into the Early Childhood program, then you will be eligible to receive the following transfer credits:
 - A. A minimum of 15-18 transfer credits for the following courses: EDU 206, EDU 308, EDU 309, SED 481 and EDU 300 (subject to completion of a state-approved special education course requirements at the Connecticut State community college level) totaling 18 credits. To receive the following transfer credits, a student must:
 - Begin the process by first submitting their application and supporting documents (i.e. official college transcripts from the Community College), to the Office of Admissions, Southern Connecticut State University (203-392-5656).
 - Your point of contact in our Office of Admissions is: Ms. Paula J. Kennedy, Associate Director of Admissions, Ms Linda Benichak and Mr. Brian Ledbetter. They work with full-time and part-time undergraduate transfer students and review and evaluate transfer student applications. They are also knowledgeable about credit articulation agreements we have with other institutions and accordingly provide equivalency credits for completion of an Associates degree from a Community College in Connecticut.
 - You also need to complete the [Application for Professional Programs](#) and have a 2.7 (B-) average from your previous coursework.
 - Your ability to complete your program in two calendar years will depend on the

- specific courses you have taken and your ability to take classes over the summer.
- Once you are accepted to the university, you will be contacted by the Academic Advisement Center in order to register for classes. Early in the semester, your point of contact in the Academic Advisement center are Mrs. Joanne Meilczarski, Ms. Tricia Lenda, and Mr. Frank Ladore.
- B. A minimum of 3-15 credits in Human Growth and Development Coursework to be applied as determined by the office of admissions, toward the state's requirement of 15 credits in this area.
- C. A minimum of 30 credits in general education requirements as determined by the office of admissions.
2. If you are a student transferring from ANOTHER institution in Connecticut (that does **not participate** in the Connecticut Early Childhood Articulation Plan) or outside of Connecticut, and who wishes to get **an EDU course waived** based on having taken what you think is an equivalent course at another institution or even within Southern Connecticut State University, you will follow the following procedure:
- Make an application in a letter to the members of the Education Department stating that you took _____(course title) at _____(college or university) and would like to get EDU course _____(course number) waived at Southern.
 - You must fill out a cover sheet for this letter by contacting the departmental secretary in Elementary Education/Early Childhood Education
 - You must attach a copy of the syllabus followed by the instructor from the course you believe to be equivalent, as well as a copy of the final grade you received.
 - Give the completed materials to Professor Beena Achhpal (Davis Hall, Room 115 B) in the Education Department.

For more information regarding this program, please contact:

Professor Beena Achhpal
Coordinator, Early Childhood Program
Department of Elementary Education
Southern Connecticut State University
Davis Hall 115 D
New Haven, CT 06515

Telephone: (203) 392-6706

Fax: (203) 392-6473

E-Mail: achhpalb1@southernct.edu