



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE
AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



MAJOR DESCRIPTION

The major in Early Childhood Education (ECE) at Cameron University is a field-oriented program designed to prepare students for work with children in preschool programs, primary grades (grades pre-K through grade 3) and other community settings.

The program prepares early childhood teachers to educate all children and advance educational equity. Teacher candidates combine social context and pedagogical knowledge to better understand and serve all populations while learning specific methods to meet the needs and interests of all students in today's diverse classrooms.

WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

As an early childhood teacher candidate at Cameron University, students will learn to develop curricula and plan engaging environments for young learners and build educational theories that will inform future work with young children and families.

Students begin freshman year with an orientation into the field of education focusing on what it means to be an educator and how your role as a teacher will impact future generations of citizens. During the first few semesters, students concentrate on increasing content knowledge of 21st century skills students will facilitate, model and teach in the early childhood classroom — creativity, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving — through general education classes.

During the sophomore and junior semesters, students begin to explore the profession of early education, analyze and critically examine different pedagogical models and approaches and the theoretical and applied elements of each. Students take courses in child development, educational learning theories, assessment and special education. Students are admitted to the Teacher Education program, who will continue with pedagogical methods courses and learn how to integrate art, science, mathematics, reading, social studies and English language arts into the early childhood classroom. The goal is for students to develop and apply an anti-biased educational perspective with an appreciation of diverse family structures, customs and beliefs and the role of the home, school, and community in the lives of young children.

The final semester focuses on student teaching, in which students spend each day in a PreKindergarten-to-Third grade classroom, partnering with a highly qualified cooperating teacher so they can experience firsthand what it's like to educate young learners in a school setting.

As an early childhood teacher you can make a daily difference in the lives of young children and nurture a lifelong passion for learning and discovery. Cameron's dedicated faculty help passionate and committed individuals become the kind of teacher that children will remember for the rest of their lives.

ABOUT OUR SPECIAL EDUCATION OPTION

Early childhood education majors have the option of adding specialized preparation and certification in Special Education. A concentration in special education prepares students to be professionals who work with students with mild to moderate disabilities. The program focuses on research-based instructional and assessment practices. Students will have field-based experiences throughout the coursework. Field experiences will provide students with opportunities to work with children and adolescents who have learning disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders and intellectual disabilities. These experiences occur across various placement settings which allow students to apply the knowledge and skills in real-life situations. In the last semester of the program, the practical experiences culminate with your student teaching, field-based training under the mentorship of school and university supervisors.

FAST FACTS

- The program is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).
- The department awards over \$10,000 in scholarships and tuition waivers each year to undergraduate education majors.
- The average class size is < 20 students.
- The department has a 100% placement rate for Elementary and ECE graduates.

EXPERIENCES BEYOND THE CAMPUS

The Department of Education is committed to providing students with purposeful, challenging and diverse experiences. Through a range of carefully constructed, challenging experiences outside of the college classroom, students will have opportunities to promote equity in education, advocate on behalf of children, families and communities and develop the skills and knowledge to inspire lifelong intellectual curiosity in the students they teach.

The department offers many co-curricular opportunities for students including:

- **Honor Society:** Kappa Delta Pi is an international education honor society dedicated to scholarship and educational excellence.
- **Study Tours:** Through the generosity of donors, students can engage in study tours in Oklahoma and across the region, experiencing diverse pedagogy and working with educators.
- **Summer Camps:** Students majoring in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education have the opportunity to develop and implement curriculum focusing on reading instruction, science and language arts.

All undergraduate and graduate programs in the Department of Education at Cameron University are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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