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Human Services Programs

Early Childhood Education and Care

Location Offered:

Cowichan, Nanaimo, Powell River

Credential:

Diploma

Program Length:

2 Years

The Program

The Early Childhood Education and Care program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to work with young children and their families in licensed child care settings. Students progress through an interrelated series of courses and practica designed to integrate theoretical learning, awareness of self in relationships, and practical experience in becoming an Early Childhood Educator. This program may be completed on a part- or full-time basis.

Program Outline

Year 1 - Fall Semester	Credits
ECEC 120 - (Principles and Practices of Guiding and Caring)	3
ECEC 133 - (Practicum I)	3
ECEC 150 - (Interpersonal Communication: Theory and Practice)	3
ECEC 170 - (Program Planning: Development Through Play)	3
Degree English Requirement	3
PSYC 131 <i>or</i> CYC 111 <i>or</i> ECEC 110 - (Child Development I)	3
Total Credits	18

Year 1 - Spring Semester	Credits
ECEC 100 - (Roots and Trends of Canadian Early Childhood Education Practice)	3
ECEC 130 - (Principles and Practices of Wellness)	3
ECEC 134 - (Practicum II)	3
ECEC 171 - (Program Planning: Creative Expression)	3
PSYC 132 <i>or</i> CYC 112 <i>or</i> ECEC 111 - (Child Development II)	3
Total Credits	15

Year 1 - Intersession	Credits
ECEC 135 - (Practicum III)	3
ECEC 172 - (Program Planning: Discovering Our World)	3
Total Credits	6

Year 2 - Fall Semester	Credits
ECEC 221 - (Assessing and Supporting Healthy Early Development)	3
ECEC 223 - (Program Development for Infants and Toddlers)	3
ECEC 270 - (Trends and Models in Early Childhood)	3
CYC 100 - (Introduction to Professional Child and Youth Care Practice) <i>or</i> , elective approved by Department	3
CYC 231 - (An Introduction to Family Development and Support) <i>or</i> , SOCW 211 - (Family Studies)	3
Total Credits	15

Year 2 - Spring Semester	Credits
ECEC 211 - (Early Childhood Program Administration)	3
ECEC 222 - (Program Development for Children with Diverse Abilities)	3
ECEC 224 - (Practicum IV - Infants and Toddlers)	3
CYC 252 - (Fundamental Counselling Skills)	3
Degree English Requirement	3
Total Credits	15

Year 2 - Intersession	Credits
ECEC 231 - (Practicum V-Children with Diverse Abilities)	3
Total Credits	3

ECEC 224 and ECEC 231 (Practica) are offered during the Fall, Spring and Intersession terms.

Individuals who completed the ECEC Certificate program in 1996 or later will receive a minimum of one year transfer credit towards the VIU Child and Youth Care Diploma, or one year credit towards the VIU Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care.

Completion Requirements

Students who successfully complete the required courses, including all practica, will be eligible for VIU's Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care. Students may apply for a Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care after completion of all first year program requirements, including all practica, plus successful completion of ECEC 211, ECEC 221, ECEC 270, and CYC 231. An overall average of "C+," as well as "C+" grade in each of the ECEC and CYC courses is expected of students in order to proceed through the program and to graduate at either the Certificate or Diploma level.

Students should be advised that graduation from an approved post-secondary Early Childhood Education program does not automatically ensure registration as a Licensed Certified Early Childhood Education. For more details, contact the contact the Early Childhood Registry or call Toll-free 1-888-338-6622 (in Victoria 356-6501).

Following admission to the program, students are encouraged to become members of the professional association of Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia (ECEBC). More information about ECEBC, membership fees and benefits can be obtained from the ECEC faculty, or by visiting the ECEBC website.

VIU's ECEC department also offers first and second year courses with a First Nations perspective. For more information about these courses, please contact the ECEC Chair at 250-740-6635.

Admission Requirements

- General admission requirements apply.
- English 12 with a minimum “C” grade, or equivalent.
- Résumé describing education and employment background.
- Two letters of reference, completed on a University Reference Form, from persons other than relatives. At least one letter of reference must document completion of 60 hours in a *licensed* child care facility such as a family childcare, group day care or pre-school.
- Group interview with the program Chair and faculty to be scheduled during the month of April.
- Applicants who submit a completed application form by the end of February may be offered an earlier interview date.

Notes on Admission

- Enrolment in this program is limited. Students who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be admitted to the program.

Practicum Placements

- Submission of a satisfactory medical report is required prior to placement in an ECEC practicum and must be submitted before first day of practicum to the ECEC Faculty.
- International Students will require a valid practicum work permit before being placed in practicum. Submit copy of practicum work permit to the ECEC faculty.
- Documented completion of a C.P.R. Emergency Child Care Certificate, or equivalent (e.g., St. John’s Ambulance Standard First Aid Certificate or Basic Life Support, Level B). The First Aid certification must be valid for entire practicum placements. Documentation to be submitted to ECEC Faculty before first day of practicum.
- Fieldwork and/or practicums will require a satisfactory criminal record check prior to placement. Criminal Record Checks are requested through VIU. The Registration Centre at VIU will contact prospective students by mail regarding the requirements for a Criminal Record Check. Criminal Record Checks are processed through the Ministry according to the Criminal Records Review Act. A check completed through the RCMP is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Act.

Career Opportunities

In recent years, there has been an increasing demand for qualified individuals to work with young children in child care facilities. Graduates of the program may find employment opportunities in a variety of child care settings such as day care centres, pre-schools, private kindergartens, child care resource and referral, and child and family service agencies. Employment opportunities in the field increase with further training and work experience.

- Careers in Early Childhood Education

Completion of the ECEC diploma program meets the eligibility requirements to apply for admission to the third year of the Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care at Vancouver Island University or third year Bachelor of Education at Vancouver Island University.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in September and applications are accepted between the first business day in October and March 31.

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