

Bachelor in Early Care and Education (BECE)

A Joint Program Offered by the Department of Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry and the Department of Exceptional Student Education

The Bachelor in Early Care and Education (BECE) is designed to prepare teachers and related personnel for employment in the fields of child care and children's services, for young children from birth to age five. This degree program is a joint initiative from two FAU College of Education Departments: the Department of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and the Department of Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry (CCEI). The BECE will be initially offered at the FAU Boca Raton Campus.

Admissions Requirements

Students enrolling in the BECE may exhibit a range of prior levels of preparation. Generally, all students are required to have completed 60 credits of lower division coursework. This could include the A.S. degree in Early Childhood Education determined by articulation agreements with community colleges.

All students seeking admission to the BECE must meet the University's admission requirements. In addition each applicant must:

- Have a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale on lower division undergraduate coursework for a total of 60 credits;
- Present passing scores on all sections of the CLAST (or earn the appropriate exemptions); to continue in the BECE core course rotation, students must meet the CLAST requirements by the end of their first fall semester.
- Be programmed for admission to the BECE by a faculty advisor from the Department of Exceptional Student Education or the Department of Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry.

Course Requirements

As a joint program of two FAU departments, the BECE is made up of coursework, field experiences, and advisement from both departments. In addition, a careful review of student transcripts will guide advising decisions.

All students are required to take seven *Early Childhood Core Courses* (21 credits) and two *Reading Courses* (6 credits). All students must complete General Education requirements (36 credits) either from an Associate Degree program, or as *Non-Restricted Elective Courses* in the BECE. General Education courses include six credits in each of the following areas: Math, English Composition, Science, Social Studies, Humanities, and General Education (electives). Gordon Rule/WAC courses, Math and English composition, are included in the General

Education Requirements. If Foreign Language courses have not been completed previously, they must be taken as part of the *Non-Restricted Electives*.

Additionally, students enrolled in the BECE will complete 18-21 or more credits of *Upper Division Elective Courses* in education and related disciplines, which will be determined in consultation with an advisor. A list of Recommended Electives, will be provided for all advisors and students.

A summary of the 120 credit program follows:

Transfer Credits – 60 credits

Determined through Articulation Agreements with Community Colleges. Early Childhood and General Education Courses can transfer as a 60 credit block for students having completed the A.S. Degrees in Early Childhood from PBCC.

FAU Early Childhood Core Courses – 21 credits

EEX 3201	Typical/Atypical Child Development, Birth – Age 8 (3)
EEX 3226	Assessment of All Young Children (3)
EEC 3214	Designing and Implementing a Blended Curriculum: Birth to Age Eight (3)
EEX 4112	Language Development and Intervention in Young Children (3)
EEX 3754	Building Family, Community and School Partnerships (2)
EEX 3606	Positive Behavior Supports in Inclusive Early Childhood Settings (3)
EEC 4313	Blended Early Childhood Methods: Birth -5 (4)

FAU Reading and COE Courses – 9 credits

LAE 4353	Language Arts and Literature Birth – Grade 8 (3)
RED 4308	Reading Development I: Birth – Grade 3 (3)
EDF 3430	Educational Measurement and Evaluation (3)

FAU Non-Restricted Elective Courses – 12-18 credits

Foreign language course requirements if not completed previously; All General Education course requirements must be completed, including Gordon Rule/WAC Math and English courses.

FAU Upper Division Elective Courses – 18-21 credits

Recommended electives will be selected with academic advisement.

Graduation Requirements

BECE graduation requirements are consistent with FAU and College of Education standards. Each candidate for graduation must:

1. Earn a minimum of 120 credits in academic courses acceptable toward the degree;
2. Earn a minimum of 45 of these credits at the upper division;

3. Earn the last 30 upper-division credits in residence at FAU;
4. Earn at least 50 percent of all upper-division courses from the Department of Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry and/or Exceptional Student Education;
5. Satisfy Gordon Rule/Writing Across the Curriculum requirements;
6. Fulfill all admissions, program and course requirements;
7. Earn a C or better in all Education courses, maintaining a 2.5 GPA upon graduation;
8. Fulfill the FAU foreign language requirement; and
9. Submit a completed Application for Graduation form.

Accreditation Standards for the BECE

The BECE represents the highest professional standards promulgated by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the Council for Exceptional Children Division of Early Childhood. All course syllabi include standards delineated by the Florida Department of Education's Educator Accomplished Practices, and the FAU College of Education's corresponding Behavioral Indicators. Students must demonstrate competence on all Critical Assignments embedded in Early Childhood Core Courses and Reading Courses.

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