

# **Bachelor of Early Care and Education Degree Program**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**August 2008**

### **1. What is the BECE?**

The Bachelor's Degree in Early Care and Education (BECE) is a unique bachelor's degree designed for teachers and early childhood practitioners serving children Birth to 5 years old. This degree prepares graduates to teach, to lead, and to gain expertise with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Graduates with the BECE will be eligible for positions in private and public educational settings as teachers, infant/toddler specialists, staff developers, and center directors. Graduates also will be eligible to further their education by pursuing master's degree programs in various early childhood disciplines.

### **2. Will I be a certified teacher when I complete the degree?**

The BECE results in a degree awarded by Florida Atlantic University. It does not provide teacher certification which is provided by the Florida Department of Education. The BECE prepares educators for many educational settings, and these settings frequently do not require professionals to hold teacher certification. Graduates with the BECE who wish to earn teacher certification will have multiple paths to certification upon completion of this degree.

### **3. Is Student Teaching required in the BECE?**

Because the BECE does not lead to teacher certification, Student Teaching is not required in this program.

### **4. Is this for full-time or part-time students?**

The BECE can be completed on a part-time or full-time basis, depending on the student's time availability.

### **5. When and where are classes scheduled?**

Classes are scheduled during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Classes are generally scheduled during the evenings and weekends, although some electives are also available during day time hours. Classes are offered in person and on-line. Currently, this program is offered on the Boca Raton campus.

## **6. How long will it take to complete the program?**

Completion of the BECE depends on the number of classes a student takes each semester. Full-time students can complete the program in five semesters. Part-time students will require more time. The classes for the degree are scheduled on a rotating basis, with each course offered only in specific semesters. This allows students to plan their programs in advance.

## **7. Are there prerequisites for the classes?**

Some of the classes have pre-requisites, so students must follow carefully the sequence of classes. Each student will work with an FAU advisor so that he or she will know the sequence of classes, and have a written plan based on the class sequence and other requirements. This will assure that all pre-requisites are met.

## **8. What are the admissions requirements for the BECE?**

Admission to the BECE is open to students who have completed an appropriate associate degree (including an A.S. in early childhood from a community college with an approved articulation agreement) or 60 credits of lower division undergraduate coursework. In addition, all students must:

- Have a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale in lower division coursework;
- Present passing scores on all sections of the CLAST (or earn the appropriate exemptions); and
- Meet all of the University's undergraduate admission requirements.

## **9. How do I apply to the program?**

Students must apply for FAU undergraduate admission before being admitted into the BECE program in the College of Education. Information on University admission is available at: <http://wise.fau.edu/admissions/>. For more information on the BECE, please go to: <http://www.coe.fau.edu/ese/BECESummaryforCOEWebsiteCatalogAug08.pdf>.