

 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST Undergraduate Programs		UUPC Approval <u>2-23-26</u> UFS Approval _____ Banner _____ Catalog _____
	Department Undergraduate Research and Inquiry College Undergraduate Studies		
Program Name Undergraduate Research Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> New Program* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change Program*	Effective Date (TERM & YEAR) Summer 2026	
<p>Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment.</p> <p>The Undergraduate Research Curriculum Committee respectfully requests UUPC review and approval to include selected upper-division College of Education Research Exposure and Research Skill-Building courses as approved coursework options within the Undergraduate Research Certificate.</p> <p>COE Research Exposure Courses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> EEC 3014 Media and Technology in Early Childhood Education: Foundations and Practice (new) EEC 3214 Designing and Implementing a Blended Curriculum for Young Children <p>COE Research Skill-building Courses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> EEC 4623 Foundations and Practical Applications of Play-Based Learning for Young Children (new) EEX 3201 Typical/Atypical Child Development, Birth to Age Eight EEX 3226 Assessment of All Young Children <p>These courses are designed to introduce students to research and inquiry methodologies and prepare them for more advanced research and scholarly engagement in early childhood education and related</p>			
<p><small>*All new programs and changes to existing programs must be accompanied by a catalog entry showing the new or proposed changes.</small></p>			
Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Donna Chamely-Wiik/dchamely@fau.edu/561-297-1019		Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation College of Education - Bachelor of Early Care and Education	
Approved by		Date	
Department Chair <u><i>Donna Chamely-Wiik</i></u>		<u>2/11/26</u>	
College Curriculum Chair <u><i>Donna Chamely-Wiik</i></u>		<u>2/11/26</u>	
College Dean <u><i>Dan Meeroff</i></u>		<u>2/11/26</u>	
UUPC Chair <u><i>Korey Sorge</i></u>		<u>2-23-26</u>	
Undergraduate Studies Dean <u><i>Dan Meeroff</i></u>		<u>2-23-26</u>	
UFS President _____		_____	
Provost _____		_____	

Email this form and attachments to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chair, University Undergraduate Programs Committee (UUPC)

FROM: Dr. Donna Chamely-Wiik



Chair, Undergraduate Research Curriculum Committee (URCC)

DATE: February 10, 2026

RE: Request to Add College of Education Research Exposure and Research Skill Building Courses to the Undergraduate Research Certificate

The Undergraduate Research Curriculum Committee respectfully requests UUPC review and approval to include selected upper-division College of Education Research Exposure and Research Skill-Building courses as approved coursework options within the Undergraduate Research Certificate.

COE Research Exposure Courses:

1. EEC 3014 Media and Technology in Early Childhood Education: Foundations and Practice (new)
2. EEC 3214 Designing and Implementing a Blended Curriculum for Young Children

COE Research Skill-building Courses:

1. EEC 4623 Foundations and Practical Applications of Play-Based Learning for Young Children (new)
2. EEX 3201 Typical/Atypical Child Development, Birth to Age Eight
3. EEX 3226 Assessment of All Young Children

These courses are designed to introduce students to research and inquiry methodologies and prepare them for more advanced research and scholarly engagement in early childhood education and related fields.

College of Education

Bachelor of Early Care and Education (BECE) and Undergraduate Research Certificate

Rationale. The Departments of Curriculum and Instruction (DCI) and Special Education (DSE) jointly offer the Bachelor of Early Care and Education (BECE) degree program. The BECE program prepares students to become high-quality teachers and related professionals in childcare and children's services, serving young children from birth through age eight.

In response to market forces (i.e., updated early childhood preparation standards, advances in research and evidence-based practices, and current trends in the field), the trend toward online education, informed by student preference, the decision to develop the BECE program as a fully online degree is grounded in four primary considerations: (1) expanding the reach of the program to serve a broader population of students; (2) increasing flexibility and access for students who require adaptable learning options due to professional, family, or geographic constraints; (3) enhancing learning experiences through the intentional use of digital tools and instructional technologies aligned with evidence-based practices in early childhood and early childhood special education; and (4) promoting lifelong learning by offering convenient, engaging, and high-quality educational experiences that support continued professional growth.

The transition to an online format also provides both departments with the opportunity to critically examine program structure, content, and alignment with current evidence-based practices, leading to several proposed programmatic enhancements. One said enhancement is to provide students completing the BECE degree the opportunity to earn the Florida Atlantic [Undergraduate Research Certificate](#) as they complete their degree requirements. We have infused research exposure, skill building, research-intensive, and directed independent research opportunities across courses in the degree program, allowing them to obtain the requirements of the certificate as such:

- **Research Exposure Courses**
 - EEC 3214 Designing and Implementing a Blended Curriculum
 - EEC 3014 Media and Technology in Early Childhood Education: Foundations and Practice

- **Research Skill Building Courses**
 - EEX 3201 Typical/Atypical Child Development
 - EEX 3226 Assessment of all Young Children
 - EEC 4623 Foundations and Practical Applications of Play-Based Learning for Young Children

- **Research Intensive or Directed Independent Research Options.**
 - EDF 3912 RI Multidisciplinary Research Methods 2
 - EDF 3913 RI Multidisciplinary Research Methods 3
 - EEX 2091 RI Disability and Society

 - EDF 4916 DIR Ind Res Ed Leadership and Research Methodology
 - EDG 4916 DIR in Curriculum and Instruction
 - EEX 4916 DIR in Special Education