

BA in Early Childhood Education (Bachelor's Completion Program)

34-36 units

Mission

The bachelor's completion program in early childhood education (<https://www.apu.edu/programs/early-childhood/>) equips future teachers by integrating coursework and field experiences with the application of a Christian worldview as it relates to life vocation. It promotes awareness of cultural diversity issues and covers multiple curricula, with an emphasis in specific subject areas aligned with Preschool Foundations and Common Core standards for subject matter while fostering a holistic understanding of knowledge.

Program Overview

The Liberal Studies/Undergraduate Education TK-8 program offers a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education aligned with California Common Core subject matter standards to prepare undergraduate students seeking careers as preschool to third-grade teachers with the breadth of content knowledge needed to teach in a P-3 setting. This program offers opportunities to teach in a P-3 self-contained classroom environment, and students complete clinical practice in preschool and early elementary school classrooms.

Students in this program prepare to work in schools as teachers, so they must know and demonstrate the content, pedagogical, and professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for helping all P-3 students learn. Completion of the major meets the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) (<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/>) subject matter requirement for the P-3 Preliminary Credential.

Career Opportunities

Though most early childhood education graduates enter teaching credential programs and find teaching positions in public and private schools locally, nationally, and abroad, demand exists in the business and communication fields as well because of the increasing need for college graduates with broad and diverse academic backgrounds. Potential teaching careers exist in preschool through third-grade classrooms.

Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses		
PRCE 301	Little Learners, Big Beginnings: Foundations of Early Learning, PK-3	3
PRCE 302	Brainwaves and Breakthroughs: Teaching Students with Exceptionalities, PK-3	3
PRCE 303	Seeds of Learning for Developmentally Appropriate Practice, PK-3	3
PRCE 304	Windows into Learning: Observing and Assessing Young Children, PK-3	3
PRCE 410	Counting, Comparing, Constructing: Math in Early Childhood, PK-3	3
PRCE 420	The Reading Rainbow: Exploring Early Literacy, PK-3	3
PRCE 430	A Tapestry of Learners: Culturally Responsive Instruction, PK-3	3
PRCE 440	Beyond the Classroom Walls: Partnering with Families and Communities, PK-3	3
PRCE 451	TPA and LPA Support Course, PK-3	2
Select one of the following:		8-10
PRCE 450	Clinical Practice, PK-3	
PRCE 460	Clinical Practice, PK-3	
Electives ¹		
PRPS 290	Human Growth and Development ²	
PRPS 305	Educational Psychology	
PCLS 501	Advanced Child Development	
PRPS 345	Psychology of Child and Adolescent Development ²	
PRPS 410	Psychology of Exceptional Children	
PCLS 511	Family Systems Theory and Applications	
Total Units		34-36

Candidates must also successfully complete the California Teaching Performance Assessment and Literacy Performance Assessment prior to completion of the program.

¹ These are preferred electives for students who need additional units in order to graduate with their bachelor's degree. These courses are not required in order to complete the major.

² Meets the APU Core: Social Science general education requirement.

Program Learning Outcomes

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Students who successfully complete this program shall be able to:

1. Engage and support all young children in learning.
2. Create and maintain effective environments for children's development and learning.
3. Understand and organize core curriculum for children's learning.
4. Plan instruction and design developmentally appropriate learning experiences for all children.
5. Assess and document children's development and learning.
6. Develop as a professional early childhood educator.
7. Effectively teach early literacy to young children in PK-3 settings.
8. Effectively teach early mathematics to young children in PK-3 settings.
9. Identify a distinctive Christian perspective compared to a secular perspective as it pertains to current education issues.