

Early Childhood Education

Department Overview

The [Early Childhood Education \(ECE\) department](#), offers three programs: 1) a [Diploma in Early Childhood Education](#); 2) a [Certificate in Early Childhood Education](#); 3) and a [Citation in Early Childhood Education: Special Education Post Basic](#). The programs prepare students to work with young children, families, and community partners within the context of the principles of the BC Early Learning Framework, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action, the ECEBC Code of Ethics, BC Child Care Sector Occupational Competencies, Child Care Licensing Regulation and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. ECE offers current, and meaningful theory-based courses and a variety of practicum experiences to support students' knowledge and understanding of professional practice. ECE students develop advocacy, social responsibility, and a rich understanding of the complexity of the work of an early childhood educator. Curricula are rooted in inclusive practice that advocates for responsive care and education for all children. All courses offer high-quality instruction from faculty with diverse professional expertise.

Self-Study

Early Childhood Education launched its program review in academic year 2021/22 with a Self-Study. Andrea Dawson was the primary Self-Study writer on behalf of the rest of the department's faculty. Additional support was provided by:

- Jim Bowers (Division Chair, Community Programs)
- Elizabeth Barbeau (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Community Programs)
- Pennie Poon (Manager, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Institutional Research analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Institutional Research-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey
- Practicum employers
- PAC (Program Advisory Committee) members The Self-Study was completed in June 2022.

External Review

Early Childhood Education's external review took place on July 10, 2022. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Eleanor Cramb, Education Assistant Department, Langara (External Review Chair)
- Debra Smith, Early Childhood Education Department, Douglas College
- Christy Tones, YMCA

Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, Early Childhood Education created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Support faculty professional development around Indigenizing the curriculum of all ECE programs.
- Goal 2: Support faculty professional development around anti-bias and culturally inclusive curriculum design.
- Goal 3: Renew curriculum.
- Goal 4: Develop educational pathways for students.
- Goal 5: Develop external connections.
- Goal 6: Explore opportunities for the development of early childhood education facilities.

Examples of Post-Review Successes

2023/24

Indigenous ECE professionals were invited as guest speakers to department meetings and training events.

Infant Toddler Citation program was created accessibly to ECE Certificate program graduates and graduates from other ECE programs. PLOs were developed for the Citation in ECE: Infant/Toddler Education Post Basic. Curriculum map that identifies points in the curriculum for inquiry-based learning, experiential learning(hands-on), and place-based learning was completed. Transfer agreements with Capilano University Bachelor of ECE program was created.

The Faculty developed a series of workshops for practicum partners and a student mentoring partnership with Langara Child Development Centre. The current student practicum handbook and sponsor teacher guides were revised to develop clear communication with students and community partners.