

**George Mason University  
College of Education and Human Development  
Early Childhood Education**

ECED 201.DL1 Introduction to Early Childhood Education for Diverse Learners  
3 Credits, Fall 2023, Asynchronous Online  
8/21/2023-12/13/2023

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

None

**University Catalog Course Description**

Explores major theories of learning in culturally, linguistically, ability, and socioeconomically diverse early childhood education contexts. Focuses on identifying developmentally effective approaches, instructional strategies, and tools to connect with children and families that positively influence young children's learning. Emphasizes anti-bias curriculum and considers advocacy pathways for early childhood educators. Note: Field Experience Required.

**Course Overview**

Not Applicable

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using an asynchronous format via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on August 21, 2023.

**Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.**

*Technical Requirements*

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see:

[https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#supported-browsers](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers)

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see:

[https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems)

- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - Windows Media Player: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player>
  - Apple Quick Time Player: [www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

### *Expectations*

- Course Week: Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Monday and finish on Sunday.
- Log-in Frequency: Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least two times per week.
- Participation: Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- Technical Competence: Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- Technical Issues: Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- Workload: Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- Instructor Support: Students may schedule a virtual one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. You can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.
- Netiquette: The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing

information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.

- **Accommodations:** Online learners who require effective accommodations to ensure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

### **Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Describe the historical, philosophical, and sociological foundations underlying the role, development, and organization of public education in the United States.
2. Discuss the legal status of teachers and students, including federal and state laws and regulations; school as an organization/ culture; contemporary issues and current trends in education, including technology in education; local, state, and federal governance of schools, including the roles of teachers and schools in communities; and Virginia's Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers.
3. Describe the major theories of development and learning and how they are reflected in early childhood education settings birth through age eight.
4. Discuss multiple influences on early development and learning (i.e., diverse cultural and linguistic contexts for development, children's close relationships with adults and peers, economic conditions of children and families, health status and disabilities, children's individual developmental variations and learning styles, opportunities to play and learn, technology and the media, and family and community characteristics).
5. Identify anti-bias, culturally sensitive teaching and learning practices that promote children's engagement.
6. Reflect on developmentally effective approaches, instructional strategies, and tools to connect with children and families and positively influence each child's development and learning.
7. Evaluate how observed experiences are developmentally appropriate, meaningful, and challenging for all young children, including those with developmental delays or disabilities, address cultural and linguistic diversities, and lead to positive learning outcomes.
8. Analyze contemporary issues and current trends that might affect their work in the future and articulate the broader contexts and challenges within which early childhood professionals work.
9. Exhibit standards of professionalism, ethical standards, and personal integrity with children, families, and professionals in the field experience setting and in interactions with classmates, the instructor, the field experience coordinator, and others.
10. Use writing as an instructional and assessment tool to generate, gather, plan, organize, and to communicate for a variety of purposes; integrate correct written conventions (i.e., grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling); and format using current APA style.

### **Professional Standards**

Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) Teaching Standards, Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Initial Practice-Based Professional Preparation Standards for Early Interventionists/Early Childhood Special Educators (EI/ECSE), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators, Virginia Professional Studies Endorsement Competencies, Virginia Early

Childhood Special Education Endorsement Competencies, and Virginia Early/Primary Education PreK-3 Endorsement Competencies

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

**Virginia Professional Studies Endorsement Competencies**

Foundations of Education and the Teaching Profession  
Supervised Clinical Experiences

**Required Texts**

Morrison, G. (2018). *Early childhood education today* (14th ed.). Pearson Education. ISBN: 9780134895116  
 Pelo, A. (2008). *Rethinking early childhood education*. Rethinking Schools. ISBN: 9780942961416  
 Other readings as assigned

**Recommended Texts**

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Author. ISBN: 9781433832178

**Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, VIA, hard copy).

Assignments	Due Date	Points
Attendance and Participation		<b>25</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aha, Question, Response</li> <li>• Self-Evaluation</li> </ul>	Ongoing Dec 6	20 5
Critical Reflections		<b>20</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection 1</li> <li>• Reflection 2</li> <li>• Reflection 3</li> <li>• Reflection 4</li> </ul>	Sep 3 Sep 24 Oct 22 Nov 12	5 5 5 5
Field Experience		<b>15</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field Experience Approval Form</li> <li>• Field Experience Journal</li> <li>• Field Experience Verification Form</li> </ul>	Sep 3 Dec 3 Dec 3	1 10 4
Early Childhood Education Exploration Project		<b>40</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 1 Developing an Early Childhood Philosophy</li> <li>• Part 2 Evaluating Anti-bias Teaching and Learning Tools</li> <li>• Part 3 Exploring Early Childhood Settings</li> </ul>	Oct 8 Oct 15 Oct 29	5 15 20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

### **Field Experience (15 points)**

This course requires a minimum of 10 hours of field experience. Students will complete their field experience in an early intervention, home-based, school-based, or community-based setting with diverse young children (i.e., infant, toddler, prekindergarten, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade). To initiate this assignment, students will visit <https://cehd.gmu.edu/endorse/ferf> and complete the [Online Field Experience Registration](#). On the form, they will be asked to indicate how their placement will be arranged. Students have two options for fulfilling their field placement requirement.

#### ***Option 1:***

- Students may arrange their own field experience if they are a full-time contracted school system employee and are able to complete their field experience in an early intervention, home-based, school-based, or community-based setting with diverse young children (i.e., infant, toddler, prekindergarten, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade).

#### ***Option 2:***

- Students may request placement in an early intervention, home-based, school-based, or community-based setting with diverse young children (i.e., infant, toddler, prekindergarten, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade) through the field placement office <https://cehd.gmu.edu/endorse/ferf>.
- The field placement office will arrange placement for students in a specific school with a specific teacher.

#### ***Field Experience Approval Form (1 point)***

Students will upload the ***Field Experience Placement Approval Form*** to Blackboard. In this form, they will provide a statement confirming that they have completed the [Online Field Experience Registration](#) and they will provide information to the instructor about where and how they will complete the field experience.

#### ***Field Experience Journal (10 points)***

Students will complete at least 5 field experience journal entries throughout the semester to document observations, connections to course content, and any questions that arise during the field experience. Each journal entry should be approximately one page in length for each of the five entries and will be submitted towards the end of the course through Blackboard. A template is provided on Blackboard.

#### ***Field Experience Verification Form (4 points)***

Upon completion of their field experience hours, students will provide documentation of their experience.

- If they completed the field experience within their own setting (requires instructor approval), they will upload the ***On-the-Job Placement Documentation Form*** to Blackboard (Bb). This form can be found on Bb and requires verification from the assistant principal or principal on site.

- If they completed a field placement other than where they work, they will upload the ***Field Experience Documentation Form*** to Bb. This form can be found on Bb and requires verification from the mentor teacher on site.

Students will exhibit standards of professionalism, ethical standards, and personal integrity throughout the field experience process with the instructor, field experience coordinator, classroom teacher, students, administrators, etc. Students will refer to Bb for DEC Initial Practice-Based Professional Preparation Standards for EI/ECSE and NAEYC Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators.

### **Critical Reflections (20 points)**

Students will submit four reflections (at 5 points each) that make connections among the Pelo text, observational scenarios, and early childhood practice. Specifically, each reflection will focus on a specific topic connecting course readings and concepts discussed in class. These topics include the following:

- Reflection 1: Professionalism
- Reflection 2: Teaming and Collaboration
- Reflection 3: Interaction
- Reflection 4: Environment

The point of each reflection is NOT for students to simply provide a summary of the readings and/ or their field experiences; rather, students are to think critically about what is being read, discussed, and learned in class. Reflections will be two double-spaced pages in length using 12-point Times New Roman font and follow current APA writing style.

### **Early Childhood Education Exploration Project (40 points)**

Students will engage in a three-part project that documents their (a) developing philosophy of early childhood education, (b) understanding of anti-bias teaching and learning tools, and (c) knowledge of a specific early childhood education setting.

#### ***Part 1 Developing an Early Childhood Philosophy (5 points)***

Students will develop a brief personal philosophy of early childhood education. Each personal philosophy should include the following:

- definition of the role of an early childhood educator or professional
- description of an early childhood theory of development serving as the foundation for teaching and learning
- statement of the importance of supporting diverse learners

Each philosophy statement should be no longer than one double-spaced page. Students will share their personal philosophy with at least two peers and discuss similarities and differences between each philosophy statement. Philosophy statements will be graded according to the rubric provided on Blackboard.

### ***Part 2 Evaluating Anti-Bias Teaching and Learning Tools (15 points)***

Students will identify and evaluate a teaching and learning tool that can be used to promote an anti-bias curriculum. Examples of teaching and learning tools include, but are not limited to, the following:

- practices (e.g., number talks)
- resources (e.g., articles, books)
- online resources (e.g., reputable websites, podcasts)

Students will submit a short overview of their teaching and learning tool for approval prior to submission. After receiving approval for their tool, students will complete the evaluation form provided on Blackboard.

Students will provide a description of their selected teaching and learning tool as part of a resource *Share Fair* on Blackboard. This overview will include the name of the tool and its use in promoting anti-bias curriculum. If the tool is accessible online, students will provide a link to access the tool. The purpose of this resource *Share Fair* is to provide all students with a resource library to promote anti-bias and anti-bias curriculum in their future work as early childhood professionals.

### ***Part 3 Exploring Early Childhood Settings (20 points)***

Students will develop and present information on an early childhood education or care setting. In the presentation, students will do the following:

- Describe the type of early childhood program selected.
- Summarize the historical and philosophical context related to the type of early childhood program selected.
- Connect to at least one theory of development appropriate for the selected early childhood education setting.
- Explain how children from culturally, linguistically, ability and socioeconomically diverse backgrounds are supported in the selected setting.

Students will utilize an electronic presentation format (e.g., PowerPoint, Prezi) to develop a 5-minute presentation. Each student will post their presentation on Blackboard prior to presenting.

- **Other Requirements**

### **Attendance and Participation (25 points)**

Active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning. Therefore, students will prepare for and participate in in-class and online activities. Students will be expected to do the following:

- Attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period for all in-person and online synchronous class sessions.
- Complete all online asynchronous work by the due dates.
- Use laptops and personal devices for instructional purposes only during in-person and online synchronous class sessions.

- Complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as evidenced by the ability to discuss, write about, and engage in activities related to the concepts presented and examined in the texts.
- Complete participation activities across the semester that complement the scheduled course topic. *Note: Instructors will periodically collect artifacts from the activities.*
- Support the participation and learning of classmates. Students in attendance and who actively engage in the learning experience will receive credit for their efforts. Graded participation activities are not announced and are implemented at the discretion of the instructor.
- Show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-person, online synchronous, and online asynchronous discussions, activities, and written reflections.
- Display professional dispositions at all times when interacting with the instructor, classmates, and other professionals.
- Submit an attendance and participation self-evaluation.

### **Written Assignments**

All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content and presentation. The American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition (APA) style will be followed for all written work. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support.

Students will do the following:

1. Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
2. Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.
3. Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate. (Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
4. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.
5. Type the paper with double spacing, indented paragraphs, 1-inch margins all around, and 12-point Times New Roman font.

- **Grading**

A+ = 98 – 100    A = 93 – 97    A- = 90 – 92    B+ = 87 – 89    B = 83 – 86    B- = 80 – 82  
 C+ = 77 – 79    C = 73 – 76    C- = 70 – 72    D = 60 – 69    F = < 60

Incomplete (IN): This grade may be given to students who are passing a course but who may be unable to complete scheduled coursework for a cause beyond reasonable control.

All CEHD students are held to the university grading policies as described in the Academic Policies section of the current catalog, which can be accessed at <http://catalog.gmu.edu>. Those students seeking Virginia initial teaching licensure must earn a C or better in all undergraduate licensure coursework.



## Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>.

## Class Schedule

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings and Assignments</b>
<b>Week 1</b> Aug 21-27	Introduction and Review of Syllabus  The Early Childhood Profession	Syllabus  Morrison, Chapter 1  NAEYC Ethical Principles and Practice Standards  CEC Code of Ethics  <b>Due to Bb (8/27) - Participation Activity #1</b>
<b>Week 2</b> Aug 28 – Sep 3	Historical, Philosophical, and Sociological Foundations  Critical Reflection	Morrison, Chapter 4  Pelo, Introduction (ix-xvi)  Pelo, Part 4-1 p. 123  <b>Due to Bb by (9/3): Critical Reflection #1</b>  <b>Due to Bb (9/3): Field Experience Approval Form</b>
<b>Week 3</b> Sep 4-10	Early Childhood Education: Past and Present  Theories of Development and Learning	Morrison, Chapter 5  Pelo, Choice of selection from Part 3  <b>Due to Bb (Sep 10): Participation Activity #2</b>
<b>Week 4</b> Sep 11-17	Theories of Development and Learning (continued)  School as an Organization and Culture	Morrison, Chapter 6  Pelo, Part 4-2 p. 131
<b>Week 5</b> Sep 18-24	Infants and Toddlers  The Preschool Years	Morrison, Chapter 9, 10  Pelo, Choice of selection from Part 7  <b>Due to Bb (Sep 24): Critical Reflection #2</b>

<p><b>Week 6</b> Sep 25 – Oct 1</p>	<p>Kindergarten  Primary Grades (1-3)</p>	<p>Morrison, Chapters 11, 12  Bb Readings  <b>Due to Bb (10/1): Participation Activity #3</b></p>
<p><b>Week 7</b> Oct 2-8</p>	<p>Anti-bias Teaching  Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning</p>	<p>Morrison, Chapter 15  Pelo, Part 1-1 p. 3  Pelo, Part 1-2 p. 7  Bb Readings  <b>Due to Bb (10/8): Part 1 Developing an Early Childhood Philosophy</b></p>
<p><b>Week 8</b> Oct 9-15</p>	<p>Observation and Assessment for Teaching and Learning  Technology and Young Children</p>	<p>Morrison, Chapters 3, 13  Pelo, Part 3-6 p. 109  <b>Due to Bb (10/15): Part 2 Evaluating Anti-Bias Teaching and Learning Tools</b></p>
<p><b>Week 9</b> Oct 16-22</p>	<p>Developmentally Appropriate and Effective Approaches  Guiding Behavior</p>	<p>Morrison, Chapter 14  Pelo, Choice of selection from Part 5  <b>Due to Bb (10/22): Critical Reflection #3</b></p>
<p><b>Week 10</b> Oct 23-29</p>	<p>Connecting Parents, Families, and Communities  Guiding and Connecting Children</p>	<p>Morrison, Chapter 17  Pelo, Part 6-2 p. 165  <b>Due to Bb (10/29): Part 3 Exploring Early Childhood Settings</b></p>
<p><b>Week 11</b> Oct 30 – Nov 5</p>	<p>Types of Early Childhood Programs  Child Care</p>	<p>Morrison, Chapter 7  Pelo, Choice of selection from Part 7  <b>Due to Bb (11/5): Participation Activity #4</b></p>

<b>Week 12</b> Nov 6-12	Role, Development, and Organization of Public Education  Federal and State Programs	Morrison, Chapter 8  Pelo, Choice of selection from Part 2  <b>Due to Bb (11/12): Critical Reflection #4</b>
<b>Week 13</b> Nov 13-19	Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood Education	Morrison, Chapter 2  Additional Bb Materials
<b>Week 14</b> Nov 20-26	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	
<b>Week 15</b> Nov 27 – Dec 3	Complete Field Experience Journal and Verification and Participation Self-Evaluation	<b>Due to Bb (12/3): Field Experience Journal and Field Experience Verification Form</b>
Dec 4-5	Reading Days: No classwork	
Dec 6-13	Finals Week	<b>Due to Bb (12/6): Attendance and Participation Self-Evaluation</b>

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

### Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

### GMU Policies and Resources for Students

#### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to [viahelp@gmu.edu](mailto:viahelp@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.edu/aero/assessments>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>.

**Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking:** As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per [University Policy 1202](#). If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as [Student Support and Advocacy Center](#) (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>.**