

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

ECED 789.002 Internship in Early Childhood Special Education Birth - Five  
3-6 Credits, Spring 2024  
1/16/2023-3/11/2024  
On-Site Location

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

Admission to the Early Childhood Special Education Licensure Concentration, completion of required licensure coursework, and completion of standardized test requirements. ECED 781 must be taken concurrently.

**University Catalog Course Description**

Enables teacher candidates to participate full time in an internship in early childhood special education (birth-5). Provides opportunities to synthesize learning across coursework and field experiences and apply content and pedagogical knowledge in a classroom setting with culturally, linguistically, ability, and socioeconomically diverse young children and their families.

**Course Overview**

This course provides teacher candidates with the opportunity to synthesize their learning across coursework and field experiences and apply this content and pedagogical knowledge in an early childhood special education setting with culturally, linguistically, ability, and socioeconomically diverse young children and their families. In doing so, candidates develop comprehensive understandings of the complexities of teaching young children, working with families, and collaborating with other professionals. As candidates integrate the knowledge, strategies, and skills developed across their coursework, they demonstrate they have met the Virginia Professional Studies Competencies, the Virginia Early Childhood Special Education Competencies, the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC) Standards, the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Professional Preparation Standards. In addition, the internship provides opportunities for candidates to be reflective practitioners. As candidates work with diverse young children, families, and other professionals, they apply content and pedagogical knowledge, assess the effectiveness of their teaching strategies and approaches, and reflect critically on ways to enhance their practice.

Candidates will engage in 6 credits of internship that include a total of 15 weeks of successful full-time student teaching under the supervision of a university supervisor (US) and mentor teacher (MT) with demonstrated effectiveness in early childhood special education. This

summative supervised student teaching experience for candidates seeking Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) licensure will take place in ECSE settings with an MT who is endorsed in ECSE. This summative supervised student teaching experience will include at least 150 clock hours spent in direct teaching at the level of endorsement in a public or accredited nonpublic school.

### **Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered using a student teaching format and Blackboard (Bb).

### **Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

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

1. Create a supportive, healthy, challenging, and respectful environment for learning for diverse young children that includes the application of effective classroom management techniques, guiding and supporting positive behavior, classroom community building, and individual instruction and interactions that promote emotional well-being and teach and maintain behavioral conduct and skills consistent with norms, standards, and rules of the educational environment.
2. Apply knowledge of human growth and development and the interaction of individual differences to guide learning experiences and relate meaningfully to students and families.
3. Use a variety of evidence-based, developmentally appropriate teaching and learning approaches to support young children's development and learning.
4. Design, implement, and evaluate developmentally meaningful and challenging curriculum for each child that builds classroom community and includes individual interventions that promote emotional well-being.
5. Plan, implement, and evaluate culturally responsive, developmentally appropriate, evidence-based instruction that promotes the development and achievement of culturally, linguistically, socioeconomically, and ability diverse young learners.
6. Assess diverse young learners, analyze data, use analysis to plan instruction, evaluate the effectiveness of instruction, and reflect on future instruction and interactions to promote positive outcomes for each child.
7. Use technology to support instruction, assessment, planning, and delivery for diverse young learners.
8. Collaborate with individuals, teams, and families to promote children's development and learning.
9. Engage in reflective practice.
10. Exhibit standards of professionalism, ethical standards, and personal integrity with children, families, the mentor teacher, the university supervisor, and professionals in the student teaching setting.
11. 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) Standards, Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Professional Preparation Standards, Virginia Professional Studies Competencies, and Virginia Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Competencies

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

### **INTASC Standards**

Construct 1: Learner and Learning

- INTASC 1 Learner Development
- INTASC 2 Learner Differences
- INTASC 3 Learning Environment

Construct 2: Content

- INTASC 4 Content Knowledge
- INTASC 5 Innovative Applications of Content Knowledge

Construct 3: Instructional Practices

- INTASC 6 Assessment
- INTASC 7 Planning for Instruction
- INTASC 8 Instructional Strategies

Construct 4: Professional Responsibility

- INTASC 9 Professional
- INTASC 10 Leadership and Collaboration

### **DEC Professional Preparation Standards for Early Interventionists and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)**

DEC 1 Child Development and Early Learning

DEC 2 Partnering with Families

DEC 3 Collaboration and Teaming

DEC 4 Assessment Processes

DEC 5 Application of Curriculum Frameworks in the Planning and Facilitation of Meaningful Learning Experiences

DEC 6 Using Responsive and Reciprocal Interactions, Interventions, and Instruction

DEC 7 Professionalism and Ethical Practice

### **Virginia Professional Studies Competencies**

Supervised Clinical Experiences

### **Virginia Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Competencies**

Standards of Professionalism

Supervised Experiences

Written Communication

### **Required Texts**

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

### **Course Performance Evaluation**

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

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

### **Weekly Planning Overview and Daily Plans**

- **Daily Lesson Plans/Weekly Planning overview** Candidates will develop daily lesson plans using the lesson plan template. Candidates will use guidance and feedback from the MT to develop and revise the plans. They will submit these plans to the MT prior to teaching the lessons. Candidates will gradually take on more responsibility for lesson planning throughout the internship and will take full responsibility during the designated weeks of full-time teaching responsibilities. Candidates will maintain electronic documentation of the lesson plans.
- **Weekly Planning Overview:** Candidates will develop a weekly planning overview using the weekly planning overview template. They will submit the weekly planning overview to the MT and upload it to Blackboard (Bb) prior to the beginning of the week. The first week of internship, candidates will upload their classroom weekly schedule. Subsequent weeks will include the schedule, topics, and activities specific to the week.

### **Weekly Progress Reports and Reflections**

This is a three-part assignment. Candidates will complete weekly progress reports and reflections to reflect on their progress and consider their next steps. After completing the first part of the form, they will submit it to their MT who will complete the second part of the form. Candidates will reflect on the MT's comments, complete the third part of the form, and submit it to their US through Bb.

### **Video-Recording**

Candidates will video-record at least one lesson each week over the course of the internship in order to reflect on and discuss effective instructional strategies.

### **VDOE Modules (five modules and cumulative quiz): Understanding the Regulations Governing the Use of Restraint and Seclusion in Elementary and Secondary Schools in Virginia**

Candidates will complete the five modules and cumulative quiz required by VDOE (see link below) and submit the completion certificate to Blackboard.

<https://cieesodu.org/initiatives/restraint-and-seclusion/>

### **Log of Hours and Summary of Internship Placement**

Candidates will complete the Log of Hours and the Summary of Internship Placement documents. They will submit them to their MT and US at the conclusion of the internship for a signature. They will upload the signed Log of Hours and Summary of Internship Placement to Bb.

**Lesson Planning Assessment** (This is a performance-based assessment that provides evidence of candidates meeting the INTASC, NAEYC, and Virginia Department of Education standards and competencies.)

The Lesson Planning Assessment is attached below. Candidates will complete the required assessment and submit it to Bb and VIA.

### **Formal Observation of Performance Reports**

The MT will complete at least two formal observations of the intern's performance. The MT will use the formal observation of performance template. Each Observation of Performance Report will be shared with the US upon completion. The intern will upload the formal MT Observation of Performance Reports to Bb.

The US will complete at least two formal observations of the intern's performance. The US will use the formal observation of performance template. The intern will upload the formal US Observation of Performance Reports to Bb.

### **Internship and Dispositions Midpoint and Final Evaluations**

Candidates will engage in direct teaching that includes responsibility for planning, instruction, assessment, and student supervision demonstrating an understanding of knowledge of DAP curriculum, children's development, and formative and summative assessment. Candidates will develop, implement, and evaluate effective curriculum and instruction that respects the diversity of young children and their families. They will differentiate instruction, provide feedback, monitor children's progress, and guide children's behavior to promote quality learning for children with varied abilities and cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Candidates will display professional dispositions in their work with children, families, and other professionals.

The internship evaluation assesses candidates' performance at two points during the internship, midpoint and final. The evaluation is intended to engage the triad in a reflective conversation about early childhood educators' competencies and responsibilities. The evaluation is designed to illuminate candidates' strengths and areas of professional growth.

For each evaluation, the candidate, MT, and US will complete the Internship Evaluation and the Assessment of Dispositions independently prior to engaging in a reflective conversation. During the meeting, the US will facilitate a discussion of the candidate's progress, including strengths and areas of professional growth, and will complete the Internship Evaluation and the Assessment of Dispositions with input from the MT and the candidate. The candidate will upload the completed evaluation form to Bb at the midpoint and at the conclusion of the internship. The candidate will also upload the Final Internship Evaluation to VIA.

- **Other Requirements**

#### **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.

Candidates 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.

### **VDOE Required Modules for Teacher Licensure**

To apply for licensure candidates must submit their certificates of completion for the following VDOE modules with their licensure application:

- Dyslexia Module/Training: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/dyslexia-module/story.html> (completed in ECED 402 or ECED 502)
- Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Training Module: [https://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cps/mandated\\_reporters/cwse5691/story\\_html5.html](https://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cps/mandated_reporters/cwse5691/story_html5.html) (completed in ECED 404 or ECED 404)
- Regulations Governing Restraint and Seclusion Modules: <https://www.odu.edu/eps/programs/ciees/initiatives/restraint-and-seclusion.html> (to be completed during internship)

### **Uploaded Documents**

Candidates will upload the following to Blackboard:

- Weekly Planning Overview
- Weekly Video Clips of Teaching
- Weekly Progress Report and Reflection
- VDOE Restraint and Seclusion Modules
- Lesson Planning Assessment
- Formal Observations of Performance Reports completed by the MT and US
- Midpoint Internship Evaluation
- Midpoint Assessment of Dispositions
- Final Internship Evaluation
- Final Assessment of Dispositions
- Signed Log of Hours
- Summary of Internship Placement

Candidates will complete the following Qualtrics survey in Bb:

- Final Self-Assessment of Dispositions

Candidates will upload the following to VIA:

- Lesson Planning Assessment
- Final Internship Evaluation

- **Grading**

The School of Education (SOED) has approved the following grading policy for ECED internships:

- The grading scale will be S (Satisfactory), NC (No Credit), or IP (In Progress) in accordance with Mason policy for internships.
- Degrees of Satisfactory performance by a candidate in Early Childhood Education will be documented on the Teacher Candidate Assessment by the MT and US.
- The US shall determine the grade after consultation with MT. The US may also consult with the Early Childhood Education Internship Coordinator, especially when the candidate may receive a No Credit or an In Progress grade.
- Candidates who receive a No Credit grade will not be recommended for teacher licensure unless they repeat all or part of the internship with satisfactory performance. This may require re-enrolling and paying tuition for additional credit hours in a subsequent semester or paying a fee for extended supervision.
- Candidates whose performance cannot be evaluated at the end of the grading period will receive a grade of IP (In Progress). An IP grade shall be changed to Satisfactory or No Credit for candidates upon completion of requirements – usually before the beginning of the next semester.
- In some cases, a grade of No Credit may be accompanied by a recommendation that the candidate not be allowed to repeat the internship. In such cases, the candidate will be counseled out of the licensure program, but not necessarily out of the program.

**Professional Dispositions**

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

**Class Schedule**

Candidates will report to their internship schools daily. They will follow their internship school holidays as determined by the school calendar. Candidates will follow the contract hours of their mentor teacher as determined by the school administrator.

Date	Topics	Assignments
Orientation <b>Thursday            January 11th            5:00-7:00pm            Merten Hall            1204</b>	<u>Internship Orientation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Internship Requirements and Expectations</li> <li>▪ Discuss plan to contact school, visit Mentor Teacher (MT) and principal</li> <li>▪ Schedule initial visit and observations with University Supervisor (US)</li> <li>▪ Teacher prep presentation</li> </ul>	

Date	Topics	Assignments
<b>Week 1</b> Week of Jan 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop goals with MT and US</li> <li>▪ Collaborate with MT and US to schedule initial meeting and first formal observation</li> </ul>	<b>Due to Bb by 1/21:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Video to introduce yourself, your classroom, identify goals, discuss your classroom schedule</li> <li>• Weekly Progress Report and Reflection #1</li> </ul> <p>Reminder: Begin working on VDOE modules: Restraint and Seclusion Module 1: A General Overview</p>
<b>Week 2</b> Week of Jan 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaborate with MT and US</li> <li>▪ Schedule first MT and US formal observations</li> <li>▪ Begin direct teaching</li> </ul>	<b>Due to Bb by 1/28:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Video conducting 1 lesson (one-on-one, small group, or whole group)</li> <li>• Weekly Progress Report and Reflection #2</li> <li>• Daily Lesson Plan for the week of Jan. 29th</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b> Week of Jan 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaborate with MT and US</li> <li>▪ Continue direct teaching</li> <li>▪ Prepare for two-week takeover</li> <li>▪ US and MT complete first formal observation</li> </ul>	<b>Due to Bb by 2/4:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Video conducting 1 lesson (one-on-one, small group, or whole group)</li> <li>• Weekly Progress Report and Reflection #3</li> <li>• Daily Lesson Plan for the week of 2/5</li> </ul> <p>Reminder: VODE modules: Restraint and Seclusion Module 2: Policies and Procedures</p>
<b>Week 4</b> Week of Feb 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MT and US schedule second formal observations</li> <li>▪ Intern begin working on the Lesson planning assignment</li> <li>▪ MT and US complete midpoint evaluation</li> </ul>	<b>Due to Bb by 2/11:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Video conducting 1 lesson (one-on-one, small group, or whole group)</li> <li>• Weekly Progress Report and Reflection #4</li> <li>• Daily Lesson plan for the week of Feb. 12</li> </ul>



Date	Topics	Assignments
<p><b>Week 5</b> Week of Feb 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaborate with MT and US</li> <li>▪ Continue direct teaching</li> <li>▪ Schedule final observation and final evaluations with MT and US</li> <li>▪ Conduct two-week takeover</li> </ul>	<p><b>Due to Bb by 2/18:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Video conducting 1 lesson (one-on-one, small group, or whole group)</li> <li>• Weekly Progress Report and Reflection #5</li> <li>• Daily Lesson Plan for the week of Feb. 19</li> </ul> <p>Reminder: VDOE modules: Restraint and Seclusion Module 3: Safe and Supportive School Environments</p>
<p><b>Week 6</b> Week of Feb 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaborate with MT and US</li> <li>▪ Conduct two-week takeover</li> <li>▪ MT and US complete second formal observation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Due to Bb by 2/25:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Video conducting 1 lesson (one-on-one, small group, or whole group)</li> <li>• Weekly Progress Report and Reflection #6</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 7</b> Week of Feb 26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct Final disposition and evaluation meetings and evaluations with US and MT</li> <li>▪ Complete and upload all final assignments</li> </ul>	<p><b>Due to Bb by 3/1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Progress Report and Reflection #7</li> </ul> <p><b>Due to Bb by 3/1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Formal Observation Reports from MT and US</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Internship Evaluation</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Assessment of Dispositions</b></li> <li>• Lesson planning assessment assignment</li> </ul> <p><b>Due to VIA by 3/1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lesson Planning Assessment</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Evaluation</b></li> </ul>

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

### 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 <http://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced 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.gmu.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, interpersonal violence, and stalking:** As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, 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 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: <http://cehd.gmu.edu>.**