

A Guide to Montana Early Childhood Higher Education Programs

*A review of colleges and universities offering
early childhood education and related programs*

Fall 2003



Prepared by the Montana Early Childhood Project
Montana State University—Bozeman, MT

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Guide prepared by the



Montana Early Childhood Project

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Introduction

This guide has been prepared to assist individuals in acquiring information concerning college programs and course work in early childhood education and child development. This new and revised edition has been produced through a survey of institutions of higher education across the state. Hopefully, this booklet will be a useful resource for people who wish to pursue careers or formal education in early childhood education/child development or related fields of study.

Since the original version of this guide in 1994, a Montana Early Care and Education Career Development Task Force, and subsequently the Advisory Board, has developed a comprehensive and coordinated career development system unique to Montana. The Montana Early Childhood Project oversees and manages the program that includes the following key components:

- The **Knowledge Base** defines what practitioners who work with young children and families need to know, and includes content areas that define the knowledge, skills, and attributes desirable for early childhood practitioners. The primary purpose is to provide a basis for self-assessment and reflection and to help practitioners determine areas of professional competence and need for further growth and education. The 11 content areas are:

- Personal Attributes
- Cultural and Developmental Diversity
- Health, Safety, and Nutrition
- Child Growth and Development
- Environmental Design
- Child Guidance
- Family and Community Partnerships
- Program Management
- Curriculum
- Observation and Assessment
- Professionalism

- The **Montana Early Care & Education Career Path** provides a framework for recording and recognizing experience, training and education. It describes nine levels that chart a course for any individual developing a plan for professional growth in early care and education. (The Montana Early Care & Education Career Path is included on pages 37-38 for your information.)
- The **Practitioner Registry** helps individuals accumulate a record of their training, education, and work experience by placing them on the Career Path. Recognition of practitioners' accomplishments is acknowledged with a certificate that is useful to employers, parents, supervisors, and to verify eligibility for some Best Beginnings grant programs.
- The **Training Approval System** identifies non-college credit training statewide in the Knowledge Base content areas through an application and review process.

- The *Training Calendar* lists approved non-college credit training and is available on the Early Childhood Project website (www.montana.edu/ecp). Approved training is required for child care licensing, Merit Pay training plans, and for Practitioner Registry annual professional development.
- The *Trainer Directory* identifies and recognizes individuals prepared and willing to conduct training in the Knowledge Base areas and may be accessed by logging onto the Early Childhood Project website.

As more early childhood practitioners, including family and group child care home providers, child care center/preschool staff, Head Start and Early Head Start program staff, community agency professionals, and others, seek to gain new understanding and competence in the Knowledge Base content areas, the demand for formal education (college credit) is growing. It is our intent through the publication of this guide that individuals will be better able to access higher education opportunities to meet their professional development needs.

For more information about Early Care and Education Career Development contact:

Montana Early Childhood Project
Montana State University—P.O. Box 173540
Bozeman, MT 59717-3540
(406) 994-4746
(800) 213-6310
Fax: (406) 994-7555
www.montana.edu/ecp

How To Use This Guide

This booklet is divided into two sections. The first section addresses each institution and their degree offerings in detail, including contact names and program philosophies. Should you need any further information about a program or school, please contact the institution for a current catalog of courses, and/or contact the appropriate department person directly. The second section (appendices) consists of the Montana Early Care and Education Career Path, frequently asked questions about the Practitioner Registry, an explanation of the CDA credential, the EC Rural program, general information on financial aid opportunities, and a chart of institutions and degree offerings organized by location.

Index of abbreviations used in this booklet:

AA	Associate of Arts Degree
AAS	Associate of Applied Science Degree
AS	Associate of Science Degree
BA	Bachelor of Arts Degree
BS	Bachelor of Science Degree
CDA	Child Development Associate Credential
C & I	Curriculum and Instruction
ECE	Early Childhood Education
ECP	Early Childhood Project
EdD	Doctor of Education
EdS	Specialist of Education
Elem. C&I	Elementary Curriculum and Instruction
Elem. Ed.	Elementary Education
Hum. Serv.	Human Services
MA	Master of Arts Degree
MEd	Master of Education Degree

Blackfeet Community College

Box 819—Browning, MT 59417

Phone: 406-338-5411

Fax: 406-338-3272

www.bfcc.org

- **Department of Education**

AA Early Childhood Education

Contact: Paula du Hamel
406-338-5411, x281

AA Elementary Education

Contact: Paula du Hamel
same as above

- **Department of Human Services**

AA Human Services

Contact: Pat Smith
406-338-5411, x261

Philosophy of Program - Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education Associate of Arts degree will prepare the student to teach the young child 0-8 (through 3rd grade) in a classroom setting or in a child care program. This program offers students a background in the philosophy and history of both Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Methods in teaching and curriculum preparation for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and elementary age students will be examined and practiced, through labs and classroom projects. After completing this program, the students will be able to teach in an early childhood center or transfer to a four-year program in Child Development or Early Childhood. This curricula is designed to preserve the cultural tradition and heritage of the Blackfeet people relative to Early Childhood Education by integration of traditional concepts in the course of study.

Selected courses available in Early Childhood Education:

ECE 210	Adult/Child Interaction Skills
ECE 230	Family, Community, & School Relations
ECE 283	Play, Curriculum, and Adaptations
ECE 285	Early Childhood Classroom Management
EDU 223	School Health Issues
MAT 132	Mathematics for Elementary Education II
PSY 235	Human Development/Life Span

Philosophy of Program - Elementary Education

The Associate of Arts in Elementary Education program prepares students to become competent and productive educators of elementary and middle school age children, or K-8. The program allows the student to acquire a strong background in general education, prepares the prospective teacher to serve multiple roles with regard to his/her students' family and cultural heritage, and provides a professional education core that gives students knowledge and expertise in the field of education. After completing this program, students will be able to transfer to a four-year program in Elementary Education. This curricula is designed to preserve the cultural tradition and heritage of the Blackfeet people relative to Elementary Education by integration of traditional concepts in the course of study.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

EDU 101	Introduction to Education
EDU 215	Designing a Learning Environment
EDU 223	School Health Issues
EDU 275	Educational Psychology
PSY 240	Developmental Psychology w/Lab
EDU 220	Intro to Special Education
EDU 290	Internship-Services to Families

Philosophy of Program - Human Services

The Human Services Department at Blackfeet Community College seeks to educate students pursuing careers in counseling, social services, and criminal justice. The goals of the Human Services curriculum set the foundation for students transferring to four year institutions to complete a Bachelor/Masters in Human Services, Counseling, Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, Criminal Justice, Chemical Dependency, and other related behavioral science fields. All courses require the integration of Blackfeet cultural views. Additional goals are to provide courses that enhance knowledge of social issues of importance to the community and to promote professional growth of current employees in human services organizations.

Selected courses available in Human Services:

HUS 101	Introduction to Human Services
CDC 110	Introduction to Chemical Dependency
HUS 120	Community Development
SOC110	Introduction to Sociology
HUS 204	Introduction to Counseling
CCJ 285	Juvenile Delinquency
PSY 240	Developmental Psychology

Carroll College

1601 North Benton Ave.—Helena, MT 59625

Phone: 800-992-3648

Fax: 406-447-4533

www.carroll.edu

- **Department of Education**

BA Elementary Education

Contact: Lynette Zuroff
406-447-4353
lzuroff@carroll.edu

Philosophy of Program - Elementary Education

The goal of the Education program of Carroll College is to assist students in developing teaching competencies in their chosen field. The Education program facilitates the growth of each student to ensure the development of appropriate skills and attitudes. The faculty challenges each student to grow to the limit of his or her capabilities, and to develop a personal sense of the teaching profession.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

ED 102	Foundations of Education
ED 205	Classroom Management
ED 228	Children's Literature
ED 229	Educational Psychology
ED 410	Student Teaching
ED 412	Tests and Measurements
SPED 300	Exceptional Children & Adolescents

Chief Dull Knife College

P.O. Box 98—Lame Deer, MT 59043

Phone: 406-477-6215

Fax: 406-477-6219

www.cdkc.edu

- **Department of General Studies**

AA General Studies - Early Childhood Education Option

Contact: Frank Rowland
406-477-6215, x119

Philosophy of Program - Early Childhood Education

Chief Dull Knife College has developed a program to meet local needs for Head Start teachers and licensed child care providers as well as provide the course work to transfer to an education degree program if they so desire. Federal regulations requiring Head Start teachers to have an associate degree by 2003 will be met by this program. Students can take advantage of a well-organized program available locally to improve their skills in a fulfilling occupation that allows them to work with young children.

Selected courses available in Early Childhood Education:

ED 105	Health, Safety & Nutrition for the Young Child
ED 120	Parenting
ED 150	Society, Schools, and Teachers
ED 155	Human Development
ED 170	American Indian Education
ED 250	Educational Psychology
ED 255	Intro to Early Childhood Education
ED 260	Intro to the Education of Exceptional Children
ED 271	Practicum in Early Childhood Education

Dawson Community College

300 College Drive—Glendive, MT 59330

Phone: 800-821-8320

Fax: 406-377-8132

www.dawson.edu

- **Department of Social & Behavioral Science**

AAS Early Childhood Education

Contact: Brenda Stockert
406-377-9467
brenda_s@dawson.edu

CDA or 1 Year Early Childhood Certificate

Contact: Brenda Stockert
(same as above)

AA/AS Elementary Education

Contact: Registrar's Office
406-377-3396

AA/AS or AAS Human Services

Contact: Registrar's Office
(same as above)

Philosophy of Program - Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education program provides a competency based curriculum and practicum experience for those students who wish to work professionally in a child care program, such as a preschool, Head Start program, child care center, family child care, or an agency that works with the families of young children, such as Child Care Resource & Referral or Family Services.

Selected courses available in Early Childhood Education:

ED/CC 101	Intro to Early Childhood Education
CC 110	Social/Emotional Development + CC 111 Practicum
CC 120	Physical/Cognitive Development + CC 121 Practicum
CC 130	Health, Safety, & Nutrition in Early Childhood + CC 131 Practicum
CC 210	Creating Environment for Learning I + CC 211 Practicum
CC 220	Creating Environment for Learning II + CC 221 Practicum
CC 230	Professional/Management in Early Childhood + CC 231 Practicum

Flathead Valley Community College

777 Grandview Drive—Kalispell, MT 59901

Phone: 406-756-3822

Fax: 406-756-3815

www.fvcc.edu

- **Department of Education**

AAS Early Childhood Education

Contact: Marlyn James
406-862-0338
mjames@fvcc.edu

AA Elementary Education

Contact: David Scott
406-756-3859
dscott@fvcc.edu

- **Department of Human Services**

AA or AAS Human Services

Contact: Rick Halverson
406-756-3871
rhalvers@fvcc.edu

Philosophy of Program - Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education program (AAS Degree) will provide students with the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to create environments that will maximize the developmental and learning potential of young children (Birth to age 8). Issues of diversity, inclusion, professionalism and viewing parents as partners will be emphasized. Students will gain practical knowledge through experience in a variety of early childhood education settings. Students completing the core Early Childhood classes will have met the CDA training requirements.

Selected courses available in Early Childhood Education:

EDUC 101	Introduction to ECE
EDUC 102	Early Childhood Developmental Themes
EDUC 127	Health, Safety & Nutrition in Early Childhood
EDUC 128	Child, Family and Community Relations
EDUC 231	Curriculum Development for Young Children
EDUC 247	Guidance of Young Children

Philosophy of Program - Elementary Education

Students may begin their teacher training at FVCC in Elementary Education and, in most cases, complete their education in an additional two years at a transfer institution. The suggested course load for the elementary

education transfer programs is rigorous. Admission into teacher education programs at four-year schools can be competitive and requires good grades, strong recommendations, and test results from the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST). A more moderate semester credit load can be achieved by taking general education core courses during summer terms or by extending the course load for an additional semester or two at FVCC before transferring.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

EDUC 100	Introduction to Education
PSY 110	Introduction to Psychology
ART 226	Methods of Elementary Art
HPER 230	School Health
EDUC 232	Instructional Technology
EDUC 256	Instruction of Special Students

Philosophy of Program - Human Services

Human Services is a dynamic and evolving profession. As our society and social welfare system is defined and redefined, there is increased emphasis on the competency of those individuals who are in the people-helping professions. There are two options in the Human Services program. Students may either choose to follow a course of study designed to transfer to a four-year institution (AA) or they may choose to receive an AAS degree, which may be utilized as a credential to enter the desired field.

Selected courses available in Human Services:

HS 100	Intro to Human Services
HS 210	Case Management
HS 215	Behavior Modification
HS 270	Family: Change & Continuity
PSY 235	Developmental Psychology
SOC 271	Family Violence

Fort Belknap Community College

PO Box 159—Harlem, MT 59526

Phone: 406-353-2607

Fax: 406-353-2898

www.fbcc.edu

- **Department of Education and Human Services**

AA Early Childhood Education

Contact: Julia Doney
406-353-2607, x240
judywagon@yahoo.com

CDA Credential

Contact: Julia Doney
(same as above)

AA Elementary Education

Contact: Mary John Taylor
406-353-2607, x227

AA Human Services

Contact: Mary John Taylor
(same as above)

Philosophy of Program - Early Childhood Education

In response to the need for high quality caregivers for children of working parents and students, and for trained teaching staff for Head Start on the Fort Belknap Reservation, Fort Belknap College has developed and implemented the Early Childhood Education Associate program. This program encompasses the CDA certificate training program. The program includes academic and methods classes, as well as field experience. Head Start classrooms and licensed or registered child care facilities serve as lab sites for the student. The courses are designed to provide an opportunity for the student who wants to be employed in a child care setting or to become trained in the profession of Early Childhood Care & Education, with the least amount of time off work.

A student completing the CDA program will be eligible to apply for their CDA credential. A student completing the Early Childhood Education program will receive an associate's degree. Each student who successfully completes both the ECE and CDA programs will be qualified for employment in the Head Start program or as a teacher's aide in the elementary school system. The student will also be qualified to become self-employed as a child care home provider or as staff of a child care center.

Selected courses available in Early Childhood Education:

ECE 100	Introduction to Early Childhood Ed.
EDPY 110	Educational Psychology

ECE 117	Creating Preschool Curriculum and Environments
ECE 118	Guiding the Young Child
PSY 202	Child & Adolescent Development
HS 210	Family/Agency Dynamics
PSY 230	Developmental Psychology

Philosophy of Program - Elementary Education

The Elementary Education program of study seeks to address the need for more American Indian teachers in the public school systems. The program offers the first two years of study for the student who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. The first year's experience will include observation in local public schools. The transfer student will be prepared to complete a portion of the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST).

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

CSC 100	Introduction to Microcomputers
PSY 110	Introduction to Psychology
EDPY 110	Educational Psychology
SPE 117	Public Speaking
ENG 217	Children's Literature
ENG 220	Native American Literature

Philosophy of Program - Human Services

The Human Services program offers the student alternative approaches of working in the social services system. The program offers sufficient training in basic skills for the student to go directly into a number of paraprofessional positions or to acquire solid background for transferring to a four-year program in Human Services. The emphasis of the program is to provide a solid set of basic skills in human services while allowing the student the option of exploring special interests and post-graduate plans.

Selected courses available in Human Services:

HS 150	Introduction to Human Services
HS 183	Violence in Society
HS 188	Legal Ethics
SOC 200	Introduction to Sociology
PSY 250	Abnormal Psychology
HS 292	Field Experience

Fort Peck Community College

Box 398—Poplar, MT 59255

Phone: 406-768-6300

Fax: 406-768-5552

www.fpcc.edu

- **Department of Education**

1 Year Early Childhood Certificate - Paraprofessional Education

Contact: Roxanne Bighorn
406-768-6360
rbighorn@fpcc.edu

AA Early Childhood Education

Contact: Roxanne Bighorn
(same as above)

AA Elementary Education

Contact: Roxanne Bighorn
(same as above)

Philosophy of Program - Paraprofessional Education

Fort Peck Community College offers a certificate in Paraprofessional Education. This program is designed to assist students in developing competencies in the paraprofessional field. The certificate program will assist students in the development of appropriate skills and attitudes. This course of study provides a basis for students to be better prepared as aides and substitutes, and to apply and sustain employment in the public school system. Paraprofessionals will be exposed to various teaching methods and strategies for each exceptionality. Students will complete a 45-hour field practicum in a supervised classroom setting. This program is structured such that students may continue their education and acquire an associate' degree or a bachelor's degree in education.

Selected courses available in Paraprofessional Education:

EDUC 100	Human Relations
SP 100	Interpersonal Communications
CSCI 101	Intro. to Computers
PSY 101	General Psychology I
NAS 110	Intro. to Native American Studies
EDUC 201	Nature & Aims of Education
EDUC 205	Intro to Exceptional Learners
EDUC 297	Field Practicum

Philosophy of Program - Early Childhood Education

Fort Peck Community College offers an Associate of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education. This program is designed to assist students in developing competencies in the field. The program will assist students in the development of appropriate skills and attitudes. This course of study provides a basis for students to be better prepared as aides and substitutes, and to apply and sustain employment in the public school system. Students will complete a 45-hour field practicum in a supervised classroom setting. This program is structured such that students may continue their education and acquire a bachelor's degree in education at a four-year institution.

Selected courses available in Early Childhood Education:

EDUC 201	Nature & Aims of Education
EDUC 205	Intro. to Exceptional Learners
PSY 205	Human Development
EDUC 210	Intro. to Early Childhood Ed.
EDUC 224	Curriculum Development in ECE
EDUC 240	Positive Behavior Strategies - EC
AIS 260	American Indian Education
EDUC 295	Field Practicum

Philosophy of Program - Elementary Education

The purpose of the Elementary Education program is to prepare students for entry level occupations in public or preschool institutions (including Tribal Head Start programs) to increase the number of Native American teachers, administrators and staff. It is also designed to transfer to a four-year college for students wishing to complete a baccalaureate program in education. FPCC has articulation agreements with baccalaureate degree granting institutions that enable eligible students to continue on toward a bachelor's degree in education through a combination of distance learning, intensive on-site instruction, and summer classes at the 4-year college. Articulation agreements currently in place include the following institutions: Montana State University-Billings (Special Education endorsement); Montana State University-Northern; and Rocky Mountain College.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education

AR 201	Art and the Child Artist
EDUC 202	Computer Assisted Instruction
PSY 205	Human Development
EN 223	American Indian Literature
AIS 260	American Indian Education
EDUC 270	Educational Psychology

Little Big Horn College

1 Forest Lane—Crow Agency, MT 59022

Phone: 406-638-3104

Fax: 406-638-3169

www.lbhc.cc.mt.us

- **Department of Education**

AA Education– Elementary Education Option

Contact: Donna Wald
406-638-3131
donna@lbhc.cc.mt.us

AA Education– Special Education Option

Contact: Donna Wald
(same as above)

AA Education– Early Childhood Education Option

Contact: Donna Wald
(same as above)

Philosophy of Program - Elementary Education

This program of study is primarily designed to prepare students for transfer to a four-year institution in order to continue course work in Elementary Education and/or Special Education. The program of study may also be transferred to Montana State University Billings to fulfill the first two years of the BS/LS Degree in Early Childhood.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

ED 102	Art for Elem. Teachers
ED 120	Schools and Society
ED 205	Exceptional Learner/lab
ED 250	Educational Psychology/Lab
AN 120	Environment and Culture
CS 240	Indian Education Issues
PY 201	Lifespan Development/lab
HE 202	Health Core Issues

Philosophy of Program - Special Education

This program of study is primarily designed to prepare students for transfer to a four-year institution in order to continue course work in Special Education. The program of study may also be transferred to Montana State University Billings to fulfill the first two years of the BS/LS Degree in Special Education.

Selected courses available in Special Education:

ED 120	Schools and Society
ED 205	Exceptional Learner/lab
ED 250	Educational Psychology/Lab
AN 120	Environment and Culture
CS 240	Indian Education Issues
PY 201	Lifespan Development/lab
HE 202	Health Core Issues

Philosophy of Program - Early Childhood Education

This program of study is primarily designed to prepare students to be in compliance with Federal regulations and/or for transfer to a four-year institution in order to continue course work in Early Childhood Education and/or Special Education.

Selected courses available in Early Childhood Education:

ED 106	Intro Creative Curriculum
ED 111	Intro to CDA Training
ED 112	Intro to Early Childhood Development.
ED 205	Exceptional Learner/Lab
ED 232	Creative Expression in Pre-School
ED 233	Math/Science for Pre-School
ED 234	Fundamentals -Early Reading Literacy
ED 276	Internships in Early Childhood
PY 201	Lifespan Development/lab

Miles Community College

2715 Dickinson Street—Miles City, MT 59301

Phone: 800-541-9281

Fax: 406-234-3598

www.mcc.cc.mt.us

- **Department of Education**

AA Elementary Education

Contact: Larry Torstenbo
406-874-6195
torstenbol@milescc.edu

- **Department of Human Services**

AA Human Services, Pre-Social Work

Contact: Earl Kiddie, MSW
406-874-6200
kiddiee@milescc.edu

Philosophy of Program - Elementary Education

The goal of Miles Community College is to provide pre-service elementary school teachers the lower-division course work (general and professional core) necessary to make a seamless transition into upper-division program requirements at their intended transfer institution.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

ED 111	Foundations of Art
MU 119	Introduction to Music
SC 130	Physical Geography
ED 201	Child Development
PE 211	Drug Abuse & First Aid
HS 208	Plains Indian History
ED 120	Society, Schools, & Teachers

Philosophy of Program - Human Services

The goal of Miles Community College is to provide a solid core of lower-division course work necessary for students who plan to major in Human Services at their intended transfer institution.

Selected courses available in Human Services:

PY 101	General Psychology
MA 201	Statistics
PY 203	Lifespan Development
SS 228	Macroeconomics
SS 229	Microeconomics

Montana State University– Billings

1500 University Drive—Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 406-657-2011

Fax: 406-657-2255

www.msubillings.edu

- **Department of Special Education, Counseling, Reading, and Early Childhood**

Associates of Arts Program of Study in Education

Contact: Mr. Greg Allard
406-657-2078
gallard@msubillings.edu

Early Childhood Studies Minor

Contact: Dr. Kay Streeter
406-657-2233
kstreeter@msubillings.edu

BS Special Education

Contact: Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh
406-657-2338
mfishbaugh@msubillings.edu

- **Department of Educational Theory and Practice**

BS Elementary Education

Contact: Dr. Kenneth Miller
406-657-2034
kmiller@msubillings.edu

- **Department of Health, Physical Education and Human Services**

BS Human Services

Contact: Dr. Carl Hanson
406-657-2395
chanson@msubillings.edu

- **Department of Graduate Studies**

MEd Early Childhood Studies

Contact: Dr. Kay Streeter
(same as above)

MS Special Education

Contact: Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh
(same as above)

MEd Elementary Education

Contact: Dr. Kenneth Miller
(same as above)

Philosophy of Program - Special Education, Counseling, Reading, and Early Childhood

The Department of Special Education, Counseling, Reading, and Early Childhood is committed to preparing professionals who evidence the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to promote individual potential within a wide range of individual differences. Specifically, the Department provides students with experience and perspective with regard to the views of individual development and appropriate instruction in those areas under its rubric. The Department offers students a wide range of course work and clinical opportunities that facilitate professional development in those areas and extend professional influence in the field.

The Associates of Arts Program of Study in Education provides the student with the knowledge and skills to work as a paraeducator. This program is based on the National Standards in paraeducator preparation, Headstart requirements, No Child Left Behind, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The Minor in Early Childhood Studies is designed to expand the knowledge and skill level of students receiving degrees in elementary education, psychology, or sociology who are preparing to work with children (0-8) and their families.

The Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education/Special Education (P-12) leads to certification in teaching at the elementary school level (K-8) and an endorsement to teach special education (P-12). This double major requires the completion of the basic courses required in the regular Broad field Major in Elementary Education and the additional courses required to qualify for a Special Education Major.

Selected courses available in Early Childhood & Special Education and Reading:

EC /SPED 210	Adult/Child Interaction Skills
EDF 225	Human Development in Education
SPED 260	Introduction to Teaching Exceptional Learners
EC/SPED283	Curriculum and Adaptations
EC/SPED 289	Professional Roles and Expectations
EC 335	Cognitive & Language Development in Young Children
EC 336	Social/Emotional Development in Young Children
RD 288	Foundations of Reading

Philosophy of Program - Educational Theory and Practice

The Department of Educational Theory and Practice is committed to preparing teachers who evidence the highest ideals of the teaching profession. Programs in the department are based on the assumptions that: (1) effective teachers celebrate the uniqueness, dignity, and worthiness of all individuals and cultural groups; (2) a comprehensive understanding of subject matter is essential to teaching excellence; (3) in-depth knowledge of human intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual development must inform classroom practice; (4) human learning emerges contextually within individuals and is molded in part by familial and cultural institutions and values; and (5) thoughtful, informed decisions about methodology enable teachers to guide students in constructing knowledge and becoming actively involved citizens in an interdependent world.

The Bachelor of Science in Education/Broadfield Major in Elementary Education has been designed to prepare preservice educators in a liberal arts curriculum which: stimulates scholarship; promotes a critical

understanding of human concepts; fosters individual fulfillment; nurtures the development of free, rational, and responsible professions; cultivates an appreciation for the values associated with life in a free, democratic society; develops intellectually competent, imaginative and vigorous educators; and encourages an analysis of values inherent in foreign cultures and the variety of American ethnic cultures with an aim toward developing a clearer understanding of other peoples.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

EDF 120	Society, Schools and Teachers
HPE 201	Core Concepts in Health
EDF 250	Educational Psychology
EDCI 300	Curriculum Theory and Design
RD 401	Reflective Practice in Reading/Language Arts
EDF 460	Philosophical, Legal and Ethical Issues in Education

Philosophy of Program - Health, Physical Education, and Human Services

The mission of the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Human Services is to improve the quality of life for Montanans who require the services of health and human services agencies for special care and professional support in the maintenance and enhancement of basic human needs. The Department is committed to quality education for students entering these fields, with central focus of providing caring, creative and competent professionals to meet the service, research and training needs for health and human services in Montana.

Human Services is defined as a broad field of human endeavor in which the professional assists individuals, families, and communities to better cope with crisis, change, and stress; to prevent or alleviate stress; and to function effectively in all areas of life and living. The primary goal of this program is to prepare students for entry level professional practice in the broad spectrum of human services in a manner that is responsive to both current and future trends and needs for human resource development.

Selected courses available in Human Services:

CHS 201	Survey of the Human Services
CHS 286	Practicum in Human Services
SOCL 332	Sociology of the Family
EC 336	Social/Emotional Development of Young Children
PSYC 380	Developmental Psychology
EC 437	Child in the Family System
CHS 452	Human Services Management
CHS 481	Abuse, Neglect in the Family & the Helping Process

Montana State University– Bozeman

Montana State University - Bozeman
Bozeman, MT 59717
see below for phone and fax numbers
www.montana.edu

- **Department of Health and Human Development**

BS Early Childhood Education/Child Development

Contact: Janis Bullock
406-994-5006
406-994-2013 (fax)
jbullock@montana.edu

- **Department of Education**

BS Elementary Education

(Options in Early Childhood Education and Special Education available)

Contact: Priscilla Lund
406-994-5949
406-994-1854 (fax)
plund@montana.edu

- **College of Graduate Studies**

MS Family & Consumer Sciences: Early Childhood Education/Child Development

Contact: Janis Bullock
(same as above)

MEd Elementary Education

Contact: Priscilla Lund
(same as above)

EdD Elementary Curriculum and Instruction

Contact: Priscilla Lund
(same as above)

EdS Elementary Education: Education Specialist

Contact: Priscilla Lund
(same as above)

Philosophy of Program - Early Childhood Education/Child Development

The Department of Health and Human Development offers a Bachelor of Science degree with a program in Early Childhood Education/Child Development. The program emphasizes the dual focus of the education and care of children from birth through age eight within the context of families, schools, communities, and society. The program focuses on early education, child development, developmentally appropriate practices, early intervention, business and administration, research methods, and working directly with children and families in a variety of early childhood and human service settings.

Students study a range of early childhood issues including development across the life span; children with special needs, relationships, management, and curriculum in early childhood, administration of delivery of human services, assessment and intervention, working with diverse families, and ethics and professionalism. The program provides opportunities for students to work directly with children and families in the Montana State University Child Development Center (accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children) and in human service and community agencies that serve the needs of children and families.

The Early Childhood Education program provides a strong background for students seeking careers in a wide variety of early childhood settings including child care and child care related businesses, human services and community agencies, state or federal early childhood agencies, and non-profit settings that support children and families. In addition, the curriculum prepares students for admission to graduate programs in early childhood education, child development, and other related behavioral and social science disciplines.

General Education Core and Early Childhood Education Articulation Agreements exist at MSU-Bozeman. General Education Core requirements are complete for students who have earned a baccalaureate degree from any regionally accredited institution in the U.S. or have earned an A.A. or A.S. Degree from Blackfeet Community College, Dawson Community College, Flathead Valley Community College, Miles Community College, and MSU-Northern. Early Childhood and other related courses completed by students transferring from any accredited institution in the U.S. to MSU will be assessed on an individual basis by an academic advisor. Generally, early childhood and related courses completed at institutions in Montana are transferable to the Early Childhood/Child Development program at MSU-Bozeman.

In addition to the undergraduate degree, a Master of Science degree in Family and Consumer Science with a program in Early Childhood Education and Child Development is offered by the Department of Health and Human Development. Students have the opportunity to develop skills necessary for professional achievement in basic and applied research settings, in higher education, and in public and private organizations and agencies. Courses focus on child and family science, theory and conceptual frameworks, research methodology and statistics, and communication of information. Flexibility within the program allows students to take courses in a variety of related areas to meet professional interests and goals, participate in practicum and internship experiences, study individual problems, and participate with faculty on research projects. Non-thesis and thesis options are available. Scholarships and teaching assistantships are available on a competitive basis.

Selected courses available in Child Development/Early Childhood Education:

HDCF 160	Human Development: Conception through Adolescence
HDCF 350	Relationships and Management in Early Childhood Classrooms
HDCF 352	Curriculum in Early Childhood Education
HDCF 356	Exceptional Needs, Birth-21 years
HDCF 425	Family Law and Public Policy
HDCF 440	Parenting
HDCF 447	Family Life Education
HDCF 454	Practicum in Early Childhood Teaching
HDCF 455	Administration of Programs
HDCF 456	Creativity and the Young Child
HDCF 458	Assessment and Intervention
HDCF 463	Family, Stress, and Crisis

Philosophy of Program - Elementary Education

The Department of Elementary Education offers teacher preparation programs for students seeking a teaching career in grades kindergarten through eight. The programs are designed to provide a basic general education and a breadth of experience in the sciences, language arts, humanities, social studies, art, music, mathematics and health enhancement necessary for a classroom teacher at these grade levels.

One of the major attributes of the Elementary Education program at Montana State University is its extensive field-based component. This includes an early experience in the freshman year that is designed for students to observe and interview teachers and their students. Prior to student teaching, each student is required to take two paraprofessional semesters. During these semesters the student spends four half-days per week for eight weeks in a teacher aide capacity while concurrently completing methods courses on campus. The final field based experience is student teaching where students spend ten weeks in actual supervised teaching in a school setting.

The Early Childhood Education option leads to a Permissive Special Competency designed for students in Elementary Education or teachers seeking recertification. Individuals receiving this competency will receive specialized training in working with children age eight and under and their families in areas of developmentally appropriate practices and curriculum, parent involvement, and integrating children with special needs. Individuals who have completed the requirements will have a permissive special competency added to their elementary education endorsement. This special competency alerts prospective employers to a student's training and skills in early childhood education.

The Special Education option is designed from courses in related fields to provide preparation for preservice teachers to gain additional knowledge and skills beneficial to working with students with handicaps. Course content focuses on communication, remedial reading, and assessment and intervention. This option does not lead to state endorsement in special education. However, a notation will appear on the student's transcript.

The Master of Education (MEd) degree is offered with a major in Elementary Curriculum and Instruction. The Education Specialist (Ed.S) degree in Curriculum and Instruction is designed for those whose professional employment and career objectives require preparation at a level beyond the master's degree, but whose responsibilities do not demand the scholarly research skills inherent in doctoral programs. The Doctor of Education (Ed.D) in Curriculum and Instruction is a professional degree designed for education personnel or persons in allied fields. It is conferred upon evidence of substantial scholarship, high attainment in a particular area of education, evidence of ability to carry on independent investigations and draw logical conclusions from such research, and ability to present the results of such investigation in a scholarly manner. A supporting minor in Early Childhood Education is available at the Master, Specialist, and Doctoral level through conjunction with the Human Development Department.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

HDCF 150	Lifespan Human Development
EDEL 309	Child Health Enhancement Methods
HDCF 352	Curriculum in Early Childhood Ed.
HDCF 356	Exceptional Needs, Birth-21 years
EDEL 406	Teaching the Primary Grades
EDCI 469	Public Schools in American Society

Montana State University-Northern

PO Box 7751—Havre, MT 59501

Phone: 800-662-6132

Fax: 406-265-3721

www.msun.edu

- **Department of Education**

BS Elementary Education

MEd Elementary Education

Contact: Darlene Sellers

406-265-3745

sellersd@msun.edu

Philosophy of Program - Elementary Education

Preparing students to become competent and productive educators is the primary goal of the Teacher Education program. The program aims to provide superior instruction, integration of practical and theoretical elements of knowledge, and effective faculty-student interaction. The curriculum provides both undergraduate and graduate instruction leading to bachelor's or master's degrees with preparation offered in various areas of specialization and teaching fields. A Fifth-Year program is also available.

The undergraduate Teacher Education Program contains four broad areas of emphasis: 1) providing a comprehensive general education background; 2) developing an in-depth background in one or more academic areas commonly taught in the public schools; 3) completing professional preparation consisting of on-campus courses and public school practicums that lead to a recommendation for teaching certification; 4) participating in community and campus wide extra-curricular experiences and/or elective courses that will enhance the prospective teacher's personal development.

MSU-Northern also provides a unique, experiential learning experience for prospective elementary teachers in its on-campus child care facility, which serves children ages eighteen months through eleven years and offers a preschool curriculum for children two to five years of age.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

EDPY 100	Intro to Educational Psychology
PSYC 205	Human Growth & Development
EDUC 347	Speech, Hearing & Language Dev. of the Preschool Child
EDPY 350	The Education & Psychology of Exceptional Children
EDUC 376	Assessment in Education
EDUC 380	Classroom Environment & Management
EDUC 400	Elementary Teaching Practicum
EDUC 405	Current Issues in Education
EDUC 448	Reading Materials for the Elementary Child

Rocky Mountain College

1511 Poly Drive—Billings, MT 59102

Phone: 406-657-1000

Fax: 406-259-9751

www.rocky.edu

- **Department of Education**

BS Elementary Education

Contacts: Suneetha deSilva
406-657-1046
desilvas@rocky.edu

Birdeena Dapples
406-657-1054
dapplesb@rocky.edu

Philosophy of Program - Elementary Education

In the next decade there will be 2.2 million new teachers hired for openings in America's public schools. In order to address the needs of the diverse student populations, the Teacher Education program at Rocky Mountain College uses a three-part model (preparation, action, and reflection) to prepare teachers to become life-long reflective practitioners. Although there is a strong theoretical component to teacher education, the program provides students with opportunities to explore personal and group relationships in order to determine how to facilitate student interaction. Education is the vehicle which drives disciplinary expertise. Whether elementary or K-12 certification is sought, mastery of respective disciplines requires the full-range of the liberal arts curriculum.

The professional preparation program in teacher education for public elementary schools is a major career program at Rocky Mountain College. The goal of the program is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to be successful as beginning teachers in schools today and to continue as life-long reflective professionals who become master teachers in schools of the future. To achieve this goal, we provide students with a strong liberal arts background, in-depth study in the fields in which they plan to teach, professional knowledge and skills essential for effective teaching, and extensive school-based experience in a variety of school settings.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

EDC 202	Foundations of Education
EDC 302	Educational Psychology
EDC 330	Intro to Teaching Persons with Disabilities
EDC 360	Literature in the Classroom
EDC 356	Methods & Materials for Teaching Elementary Social Studies
EDC 402	Curriculum & Instruction, K-12
EDC 410	Classroom Management
EDC 453	Student Teaching in the Elementary School

Salish Kootenai College

PO Box 70—Pablo, MT 59855

Phone: 406-275-4800

Fax: 406-275-4801

www.sk.edu

- **Department of Early Childhood Education**

AA Early Childhood Education

Contacts: Cindy O'Dell
406-275-4752
cindy_odell@sk.edu

Joelfre Grant
406-275-4771
joelfre_grant@sk.edu

- **Department of General Studies**

AS Elementary Education

BS Elementary Education (through arrangement with UM-Western)

Contact: Lois Slater
406-275-4820
lois_slater@sk.edu

- **Department of Human Services**

AA Human Services

BA Human Services

Contact: Mary Big Bow
406-275-4800, x294
mary_bigbow@sk.edu

Philosophy of Program - Early Childhood Education

The mission of our Early Childhood Education program is to graduate students who demonstrate competency in professional knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values concerning child development and the learning process, curriculum development and implementation, family and community relationships, assessment, and professionalism in order to effectively teach young children while involving the child's family and community.

The educational outcomes of the Early Childhood Education program are: (1) Students will apply knowledge of how children develop and learn in order to support and promote the holistic development of children from birth to age 8; (2) Students will apply cultural and linguistic knowledge to create environments, experiences and family relationships that affirm and respect diversity; (3) Students will plan and implement developmentally appropriate curriculum and instructional strategies based on knowledge of individual children, the community, and integrated curriculum goals and content; (4) Students will utilize positive individual and group guidance and problem solving techniques in order to foster positive social and emotional development in children from birth to age 8; (5) Students will establish and maintain physically and psychologically safe and healthy learning environments for children; (6) Students will demonstrate positive communication skills in order to establish and

maintain positive, collaborative relationships with families and other professionals; (7) Students will engage in reflective practice and develop professional partnerships to advance the field of early childhood education.

Selected courses available in Early Childhood Education:

- Child Growth and Development and Lab
- Positive Guidance and Discipline and Lab
- Creating a Learning Environment and Lab
- Early Childhood Curriculum and Lab
- Math Concepts for Early Childhood Teachers
- Intervention Strategies and Lab
- Assessment in Early Childhood Education
- Language and Literacy in Early Childhood and Lab
- Meeting the Needs of Families and Lab
- Management of Early Childhood Programs
- Student Teaching

Philosophy of Program - Elementary Education

Salish Kootenai College and the University of Montana-Western collaborate to offer an Elementary Education program at SKC. This four year program, located entirely on the SKC campus, is designed primarily for Native American students. Participants must complete the first two years of the Associate of Science degree from SKC or another accredited institution of higher learning before acceptance into this program. Graduates of the program will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from UM-Western.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

HMNT 101	Introduction to Humanities
CSCD 101	Introduction to Computers
HPED 102	Holistic Wellness
PSYC 110	Introduction to Psychology
ANTH 201	Cultural Anthropology
EDUC 278	Exploratory Field Experience

Philosophy of Program - Human Services

The AA program in Human Services is designed to give students the necessary skills and knowledge for employment at a paraprofessional level. The program emphasizes cultural sensitivity and direct involvement with consumers. A graduate of this program possesses the skills for working with people in a variety of service delivery systems. Graduates are prepared to communicate, to assess, and to assist consumers in making environmental modifications to improve the lives of those served. This program also provides a basic foundation for pursuit of a baccalaureate degree in Human Services or Social Work. Upon successful completion of this degree, students will be able to obtain entry-level employment within the field of human services and/or enter a variety of baccalaureate degree programs in the field of human services.

The bachelor program, a continuation of the AA program in Human Services, provides students with the necessary entry-level skills and knowledge for employment in a variety of human services careers. Successful

completion of this degree will enable students to obtain employment in the field of human services and/or enter a variety of graduate programs in the field of human services.

Selected courses available in Human Services:

SVLN 100	Community Service Learning
PSYC 105	Human Potential Seminar
HMSD 150	Intro to Human Services
HMSD 195	Basic Counseling Skills
HMSD 212	Family & Community Issues
PSYC 230	Developmental Psychology
HMSD 320	Community Resources
HMSD 443	Physical & Psychological Disabilities

Stone Child College

RR 1, Box 1082—Box Elder, MT 59521

Phone: 406-395-4313

Fax: 406-395-4836

www.montana.edu/wwwsc

- **Department of General Studies**

AA General Studies - Elementary Education Concentration

Contacts: Todd Hanson
406-395-4313, x133

Peggy Standing Rock
406-395-4313, x126

CDA (special requests for CDA course offerings)

Contacts: Robert Small
406-395-4313, x147
bob@scc.rockyboy.org

Kadene Drummer
406-395-4313, x136
kadene@scc.rockyboy.org

Philosophy of Program - Elementary Education

The mission of the Teacher Education training program at Stone Child College is to provide students the opportunity to receive formal instruction in a variety of diverse courses and academic disciplines which lead to completion of both the general education and professional core program requirements. The Teacher Education training program is intended to introduce students to the basic concepts of academic instruction, classroom organization, classroom preparation, and mastery of common learning development strategies. Students are offered the opportunity to master the fundamental skills of writing, oral communication, research, computation, scientific method, critical thinking, instructional techniques, and learning strategies. The Teacher Education training program has been designed specifically to meet the needs of students seeking either a terminal degree as a para-educator with a career as a teacher's aide or classroom assistant, or as a preliminary education experience leading to transfer to an allied baccalaureate degree teacher education program.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

EDUC 100	Survey of Education
NAS 101	History of Indians in the U.S.
PSYC 110	Introduction to Psychology
ENGL 210	Children's Literature
PSYC 230	Human Growth & Development
EDUC 290	Teacher Education Capstone

University of Great Falls

1301 20th Street South—Great Falls, MT 59405

Phone: 406-761-8210

Fax: 406-791-5394

www.ugf.edu

- **School of Education**

AA Early Childhood Education

Contact: Joe Fontana
406-791-5333
jfontana@ugf.edu

BS Elementary Education

Contact: Joe Fontana
(same as above)

BS Special Education

Contact: Dick Wende
406-791-5347
dwende@ugf.edu

- **School of Human Services**

BA Psychology, Sociology, or Criminal Justice - Human Services Concentration

Contact: Deb Kottel
406-791-5339
dkottel@ugf.edu

- **School of Graduate Studies**

MEd Education

Contact: Harold Jones
406-791-5346
hjones@ugf.edu

K-12 Principal's Certification

Contact: Joe Fontana
(same as above)

MHS Human Services

Contact: Deb Kottel
(same as above)

Philosophy of Program – Education

The Elementary Education program is committed to preparing liberal art students to become quality educators. The Early Childhood program emphasizes the unique care and educational needs of young children including the use of developmentally appropriate practices. The University of Great Falls works with the Great Falls Public Schools and the area parochial schools to provide quality field experiences for their students.

The University has developed a mentoring program through the Great Falls Education Association for area teachers. Delta Kappa Gamma and Phi Delta Kappa, two honorary education societies, work in conjunction with the University to provide support and recognition for educators in Great Falls.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

PSY 210	Human Growth and Development
EDUC 270	Creative Dramatics
EDUC 297	Field Experiences
EDUC 336	Developing Emergent Literacy
EDUC 364	The Pre-School Child at Risk
EDUC 370	Children's Literature
EDUC 372	Kindergarten and Early Childhood Methods

Philosophy of Program - Human Services

The concentration in Human Services is an interdisciplinary program that provides a framework for students who wish to prepare for careers in the human services field. The concentration ensures grounding in the behavioral sciences as well as practical skill-based training. Career opportunities are available in public agencies and private, non-profit organizations.

Selected courses available in Human Services:

HSV 241	Human Relations in Society
HSV 262	Introduction to Rehabilitative Services
HSV 326	Ethics in Human Services
HSV 394	Casework Methods & Practices
HSV 494	Case Management for Human Services

University of Montana-Missoula

32 Campus Drive—Missoula, MT 59812
see below for phone and fax numbers

www.umt.edu

- **Department of Curriculum and Instruction**

BA Elementary Education
Special Education, Literacy Education Minor
Contact: Carolyn Lott
406-243-6170
Carolyn.Lott@mso.umt.edu

- **Human and Family Development Program**

Human and Family Development Minor
Emphasis in: Early Childhood, Early Intervention
Contact: Paul Silverman
406-243-6349
pypss@selway.umt.edu

- **Department of Graduate Studies**

MEd in Curriculum and Instruction
Emphasis in: Elementary Education, Literacy Education, Special Education
Contact: David Erickson
406-243-5318
David.Erickson@mso.umt.edu

EdD in Curriculum and Instruction
Contact: David Erickson
(same as above)

Philosophy of Program - Curriculum and Instruction

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction offers a focused, field-based teacher preparation program and a full range of graduate programs, including the doctoral degree. Collaboration, diversity, and curricular integration are themes that guide the design and instruction of each of our programs. Our Elementary Education degree reflects our commitment to the development of teachers who meet exemplary standards in academics and service. It is our goal to prepare students for the realities of the teaching profession. The faculty are themselves licensed, experienced, K-12 classroom teachers. They provide a wide range of service to the schools of Montana and are active researchers in their specialty fields. Programs in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction are organized to foster the development of a learning community and incorporate integration of knowledge and experience, cooperation among participants, and inclusivity, caring and respect for others. Programs at all levels emphasize professional ethics, a commitment to life-long learning, academic competence and skills in higher-order thinking, an appreciation for the integration of knowledge, a sense of self worth, and respect for the uniqueness of the individual and the diversity of cultural heritage.

The Elementary Education major prepares students to teach from kindergarten through eighth grade. The program features a strong liberal arts tradition, which provides excellent depth across curriculum areas. Elementary Education students complete an integrated, field-based semester of courses prior to student teaching. Two laboratory preschools are available on campus, including one for children with disabilities.

Selected courses available in Elementary Education:

C&I 330	Early Childhood Education
C&I 355	Child in the Family
C&I 367	Preschool Practicum

Philosophy of Program - Human and Family Development

The purpose of the Human and Family Development minor is to equip students with a general knowledge of issues relevant to normal and atypical patterns of human and family development across the lifespan, and to provide them with practical skills and insights which will enhance their abilities in a variety of professional positions.

Selected courses available in Human and Family Development:

PSYC 240	Developmental Psychology
SW 400	Social Work Research
COMM 411	Family Communication
HFD 412	Family Development
SW 422	Services to Changing Families
HFD 490	Practicum in Early Intervention

University of Montana-Western

710 South Atlantic—Dillon, MT 59725

Phone: 866-UMW-MONT

Fax: 406-683-7809

www.umwestern.edu

- **Department of Education**

AAS Early Childhood

BS Early Childhood

Early Childhood Minor

Contact: Julie Bullard
406-683-7176
j_bullard@umwestern.edu

BS Elementary Education

Contact: Cheri Jimeno
406-683-7325
c_jimeno@umwestern.edu

- **Early Childhood Outreach**

Contact: Vickie Lansing
866-799-9140
v_lansing@umwestern.edu

Philosophy of Program - Early Childhood Education

University of Montana-Western offers several options for those interested in Early Childhood Education. Students can earn an Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood, an Early Childhood Minor, a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, or take early childhood core courses to meet the training requirement for the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA).

Twenty-four early childhood credits are offered off-campus, with six credits (two courses and two labs) offered each semester. Coursework is completed in the evening, one night a week, to accommodate working students. The program is offered in Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Hamilton, Havre, Helena, and Missoula. Constructivist, hands-on, in-class instruction is combined with labs where students implement what they are learning in class. These credits can be combined with general education credits from local institutions or through on-line coursework to complete the early childhood associate's degree. Additional early childhood specialty courses are offered through on-line and intensive coursework for those who wish to receive an early childhood bachelor's degree. EC Rural is a distance learning option for the 24 credit early childhood core courses and involves a combination of at-home self-study with intensive institutes (see appendix for details).

Core courses available in Early Childhood Education:

- ED 142/143 Introduction to Early Childhood/lab
- ED 144/145 Creating an Environment for Learning/lab
- ED 240/241 Positive Child Discipline/lab
- ED 242/243 Meeting the Needs of the Family/lab

ED 246/247 Early Childhood Professional/lab
ED 250/251 Child Growth and Development/lab
ED 320/321 Early Childhood Curriculum 1/lab
ED 324/325 Early Childhood Curriculum II/lab

Early Childhood Specialty Courses

ED 326 Infant Toddler Development and Group Care
ED 341 Exceptional Learner
ED 346 Early Literacy
ED 348 Math and Science for Early Childhood
ED 354 Fostering Social Competence in the Early Years
ED 421 Creativity and the Young Child: Exploring Reggio Emilia and the Project Approach
ED 422 Family, Communities, Culture
ED 424 Early Childhood Assessment and Outcomes
ED 455 Child Development Theories and Research
ED 457 Coaching and Mentoring Adults
ED 496 Early Childhood Practicum

EARLY CHILDHOOD RURAL PROGRAM

Early Childhood (EC) Rural is a program run by the University of Montana-Western that is designed to offer early childhood courses to individuals in Montana who have limited or no access to higher education opportunities because of the size and rural nature of their communities.

EC Rural provides 24 academic credits of core early childhood coursework over four semesters through a combination of intensive institutes and self-study activities. The program provides a thorough, yet flexible, education for students who cannot attend weekly class sessions at any of the outreach locations sponsored by UM-Western. The exact timing of the intensive institutes is determined by the EC Rural instructor.

EC Rural intensive programs are being offered out of Missoula. Each semester, participants with a Missoula instructor attend two or three multiple-day intensive institutes on The University of Montana-Missoula campus. In addition to the intensive institutes, students spend 6 hours per week in an early childhood program and complete self-study learning activities at home.

Students who wish to participate in EC Rural must be admitted to The University of Montana-Western. For a sampling of the coursework offerings and for university contact information, please see pages 39- 40 of this Guide.

For a packet of information about EC Rural and the Early Childhood Outreach program for early childhood core courses, please contact:

Vickie Lansing
UM-Western
710 South Atlantic
Dillon, MT 59725
866-799-9140
v_lansing@umwestern.edu

MONTANA EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION CAREER PATH LEVELS

Pre-Professional

- Eight hours approved training (may include orientation - or - in-service training)
- First Aid and CPR certification
- Currently working in an Early Childhood setting
- Annual training required: 8 hours of approved training (if in licensed program, the 8 hours required for licensing will count)

Level 1

- High School diploma or GED
- Fifteen (15) hours of approved entry level training (may NOT include orientation)
- First Aid **and** CPR certification
- Minimum 500 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- Annual training required: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for licensing, if applicable)

Level 2

- High School diploma or GED
- 60 hours of approved training in the past 5 years
- First Aid **and** CPR certification
- Minimum 500 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- Annual training required: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for licensing, if applicable)

Level 3

- Current CDA Credential
- **OR** -
- NAFCC Accreditation and 120 hours of approved training in the past 5 years
- Minimum 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- Individual membership in a professional Early Childhood organization
- Annual training required: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for licensing, if applicable)

Level 4

- Current CDA Credential plus at least 20 college credits in Early Childhood Education
- **OR** -
- Current Montana Child Care Development Specialist Apprenticeship Certificate
- **OR** -
- One year certificate requiring 30 college credits in Early Childhood Education
- Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- Individual membership in a professional Early Childhood organization
- Annual training required: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for licensing, if applicable)

Level 5

- Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
- **OR** -
- Associate's Degree in a Social Science or Education with at least 20 college credits in Early Childhood Education
- **OR** -
- Bachelor's Degree in unrelated field with at least 20 college credits in Early Childhood Education
- 300 hours supervised teaching experience
- Minimum 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- Membership in professional Early Childhood organization
- Annual training required: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for licensing, if applicable)

Level 6

- Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
- **OR** -
- Bachelor's Degree in a Social Science or Education with 20 credits in Early Childhood Education
- 300 hours supervised teaching experience
- Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- Annual training required: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for licensing, if applicable)

Level 7

- Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
- **OR** -
- Master's Degree in related field with emphasis in Early Childhood Education
- Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- Individual membership in professional Early Childhood organization
- Annual training required: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for licensing, if applicable)

Level 8

- Doctorate in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
- **OR** -
- Doctorate in related field with Early Childhood Education emphasis
- Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- Individual membership in a professional Early Childhood organization
- Annual training required: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for licensing, if applicable)

For more information about your level on the Career Path or applying to the Practitioner Registry, contact the Early Childhood Project at (800) 213-6310 or (406) 994-4746.

Frequently Asked Questions About The Montana Practitioner Registry and Career Path

We have had many good questions posed to us by people applying to the Practitioner Registry about their placement on the Career Path. The Montana Early Care and Education Career Development Advisory Board wants to clarify for practitioners their position in response to the questions. We appreciate feedback given in constructive ways and truly wish to make the Career Development program a valuable professional initiative.

What is the purpose of the Montana Early Care and Education Practitioner Registry and Career Path?

- To give recognition to practitioners at different levels within the early childhood profession.
- To increase the number of high quality early care and education programs by developing a knowledgeable and skilled early childhood workforce that is competent to teach and care for young children, support families and instruct practitioners.
- Help consumers, employers, and others know a practitioner's level on the Career Path and their experience and knowledge of child growth and development, early childhood education and other areas of the Early Care and Education Knowledge Base.
- To raise the status of and compensation for early care and education as a viable and critical profession in our society.

How might the Career Path Be Used?

- To publicize the education, training, and experience of practitioners in a program so parents and others know that children are being cared for and educated by knowledgeable, competent, and nurturing people.
- To recruit staff for early care and education programs that offer direct and indirect services to families of young children.
- To increase wages and benefits for early care and education practitioners based upon their level on the Career Path.
- To develop innovative new programs to improve the quality of early care and education in Montana that link specialized training in early childhood to the quality of care and increased compensation.

What Twenty Credits Are Accepted as Early Childhood/Child Development?

For Levels 4-8, Early Childhood/Child Development college credits are required.

In 1994 the Montana Board of Public Education approved the Early Childhood Permissive Special Competency (ECPSC) which means that individuals who complete the necessary requirements have this competency added to their elementary teaching certification. Teachers receiving this competency complete specialized early childhood courses focusing on children birth through age eight and their families.

Due to the amount of research that supports specialized education for teachers, the following national organizations have made recommendations that pre-kindergarten through third grade primary teachers have special certification of competencies: National Association for the Education of Young Children, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of State Boards of Education, National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and Association for Childhood Education International.

The Montana ECPSC is currently offered through MSU-Bozeman and the University of Montana-Western. Each college must apply to the state Office of Public Instruction to be approved by the Board of Public Education for the ECPSC. Colleges must prove that they meet the Montana standards for the ECPSC. The ECPSC requires 20-26 specialized credits depending upon the college or university.

The ECPSC includes content in the areas listed below. This same content (20 credits) is required for Levels 5 and 6 on the Career Path when the degree is in a related field rather than Early Childhood Education/Child Development (or Level 5 with an unrelated degree). The 20 credits must include course work from at least 5 of the following content areas:

- Child/Human Growth and Development
- Learning Environments
- Exceptionality (Developmental Diversity)
- Family and Community Partnerships
- Early Childhood Curriculum
- Child Guidance
- Observation and Assessment
- Program Management/Administration
- Professionalism

Practicum or lab credits in infant/toddler through third grade program/classroom, or student teaching in a K through 3rd Grade classroom count for a maximum 5 credits

Practitioners applying to the Practitioner Registry for Level 6 who do not have a degree in ECE/CD or the Montana ECPSC must provide transcripts of course work in the above content areas for review.

What About Master's and Doctorate Degrees?

People applying to the Practitioner Registry for Levels 7 or 8 without a degree in ECE/CD must submit transcripts and written documentation describing emphasis of studies in working with families and children, ages birth through age eight. Documentation shall include course descriptions, special projects, papers, internships, thesis, or other supporting materials.

What Can I Do If I Do Not Agree With My Career Path Level?

If you believe that your education and training should be further considered for placement on the Career Path at a higher level you may appeal to the Practitioner Registry Review Committee. The committee consists of 2-3 members of the Montana Career Development Advisory Board and the Career Development Coordinator. If you wish to appeal, you must provide the committee with the following items:

- Cover letter stating why you wish to appeal
- Additional documentation about your course content, projects, independent study credits, and other items you feel might be helpful
- Evidence of informal (non-credit) training hours that you have completed in Knowledge Base content areas and the areas identified for the 20 credit requirement stated above

We recommend the Montana Early Care and Education Knowledge Base booklet as a basis to develop your appeal. Call the Montana Early Childhood Project to request a copy at 1-800-213-6310 or 406-994-4746.

GENERAL FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Don't let the cost of tuition be a barrier to pursuing college credit - there are plenty of programs out there that can help! Be sure to contact the institution you are interested in attending and speak to the financial aid office. They have information on federal and state financial aid programs, as well as ways to access private funding sources. Listed below are some resources you may want to investigate.

Federal Pell Grants

- Federal funds, do not need to be repaid
- For students who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree
- To apply, go on the web to www.fafsa.ed.gov and use their online application form. Not only does it give clear instructions, the program also alerts you to any mistakes before you submit the form. If you do not have computer access, simply contact any college financial aid office or stop by your local high school for an application.

Student Loans

- Need to be repaid
- Low, tax-deductible interest rate, often with flexible payment plans
- Two low-interest federal loans based on financial need: Perkins Loan & Stafford Loan
- Graduates granted the Perkins loan who go on to work in low-income school programs, including Head Start, are eligible for loan cancellation
- Contact a financial aid office or go to www.ed.gov and click on the "financial aid" tab

Federal Tax Credits

- Hope Scholarship Credit: may be claimed for tuition and related expense for each student (enrolled at least half-time) in the taxpayer's family and can be taken during the first two years of the degree program, up to \$1500/year
- Lifetime Learning Credit: no minimum courseload requirement. The credit is equal to 20% of the taxpayer's first \$10,000 of tuition and related expenses each year
- You may not claim both credits during the same year.

Child Care Provider Loan Forgiveness (CCPLF) Program

- The CCPLF Program is a demonstration program that is intended to bring more highly trained individuals into the early childhood profession and to retain those providers for longer periods of time. To receive an application form, call the Child Care Provider Loan Forgiveness support desk toll free at 1-888-562-7002.

Merit Pay II

- \$750 Best Beginnings awards for college course work that leads to a CDA credential, associate, bachelor's, or master's degree in early childhood/child development
- Contact your local Child Care Resource & Referral agency for more information, or call DPHHS at 406/444-3657.

Other Possibilities

Using some creativity and elbow grease, many students are able to put together plans for financing their higher education goals. Look into an apprenticeship program, scholarships from local organizations such as Rotary Club, vocational rehabilitation, employer sponsored scholarships, financial aid from your chosen college, and so on! Visit your local library for more information on educational funding, or search the web. Try logging onto www.students.gov, www.finaid.org, or www.fastweb.com for a variety of funding possibilities. Good Luck!

CDA: CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE NATIONAL CREDENTIAL PROGRAM

What is CDA?

A Child Development Associate (CDA) is a nationally recognized individual who has successfully completed a CDA assessment and has been awarded the CDA credential. The individual is able to meet the specific needs of children and works with parents and other adults to nurture children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth. Earning a CDA credential demonstrates the competency and professionalism of the early childhood educator, opening up new career opportunities and levels on the Montana Early Care & Education Career Path.

The Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C. evaluates competence through an assessment process. Five components make up the documentation:

- Professional Resource File - a collection of reference materials related to your work;
- Parent Opinion Questionnaires - feedback from parents with children in your care;
- The CDA Assessment Observation Instrument - recorded observations of your skills while working with children and families as a primary caregiver;
- An Oral Interview - interview conducted by a Council trained representative to evaluate your skills and knowledge of good early childhood practices; and
- A Written Examination - administered by the Council Representative.

Who is Eligible?

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Have 480 hours of experience working with children within the past 5 years
- Have 120 clock hours of formal child care education within the past 5 years, including ten hours in each CDA content area: planning a safe, healthy learning environment; steps to advance children's physical/intellectual development; positive ways to support children's social & emotional development; strategies to establish productive relationships with families; strategies to manage an effective program operation; maintaining a commitment to professionalism; observing/recording children's behavior; and principles of child growth & development
- Must be working in an early childhood program where you can be observed as a primary caregiver. Credentials are available in: Center-based Preschool (3 -5 years); Center-based Infant/Toddler (Birth - 36 months); Family Child Care Home; and Home Visitor (in an established program of home visits with families of children 5 years of age & younger)

How Do I Get Started?

There are many programs listed in this guide that offer coursework which prepares students for the CDA assessment. Institutions which offer specific CDA programs are designed to successfully prepare practitioners for their CDA assessment while obtaining college credit. College credit training is not a requirement for the CDA credential, but does allow the early childhood professional to be placed at a Level 4 on the Montana Early Care & Education Career Path. For more information, please contact the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition at 800/424-4310 or visit their website at www.cdacouncil.org.