Course: Child Development [CD]

Course Description:

The foundational course is the first in the Early Childhood Education [ECE] Program of Study [POS] This course will explore the physical, cognitive and social emotional development of the young child during various stages of development from conception through age eight. Students will be introduced to the importance of brain development, developmental theorists, principles and theories of child development, the importance of emotional relationships, and research in the field of early childhood education. The concepts of cultural diversity and professional use of technology in early childhood will be integrated throughout the course.

Course Rationale:

The purpose of this course is for the student to develop a more in depth understanding of how children grow, develop and learn from birth to age eight. Major themes include observation and why it is important, developmental transitions from infancy to toddler to early childhood to school age, family engagement, diversity, career exploration and opportunities and technology all within the developmentally appropriate frame work.

Course Essential Questions:

• What skills and tools are important to enhance understanding children? What do students need to know about child development?

• What factors influence children’s growth and development? Who are Care Givers and what role do they play in the life of young children or [developing child]?

• Why is family involvement an essential component when studying children? How does diversity play a significant role in life of young children?

• How can professionals use child development milestones age birth to age eight to plan developmentally appropriate experiences to enhance physical, intellectual, social and emotional development? How do contemporary issues and trends affect the life of young children?

• Why is research by developmental theorist and affiliations with professional organizations vital to supporting the understanding of young children? What are the best techniques that can be used to teach young children about technology?