



## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

### We're more than you think.

We are proud of our reputation as the flagship teacher education program in South Carolina and the region. Our program leads students to successful teaching careers because we ensure that what we teach is relevant to the workplace and that we challenge and inspire those who come to us. With \$7 million federal funding through the Teacher Quality Partnership program, we are creating a new model of undergraduate teacher preparation. As you will see, our commitment to leadership, stewardship, collaboration and innovation exemplifies all that we do.

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# Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education

*Shaping our future: Making a difference in  
young children's lives*

## The Major

Early childhood education is an option available to students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in the Richard W. Riley College of Education at Winthrop University. The curriculum includes the exploration of current research and practice related to early childhood education. Students also benefit from hands-on experiences in local schools. The curriculum focuses on a conceptual framework highlighting the teacher as an educational leader and prepares graduates for the ever-changing world of education.

## The Program

Courses leading to the Bachelor of Science in early childhood education provide students with the opportunity to explore current research in the field. The major requires 62 semester hours in the professional education sequence, including approximately 29 semester hours in the core curriculum. Additionally, students analyze and apply new learning and teaching strategies in a variety of field settings including child care centers, Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School and public school classrooms in surrounding areas.

## Internships

All early childhood education majors are required to complete diverse field-based experiences. At Winthrop, these experiences are comprised of two components. The first places students in appropriate-level classrooms two days per week, over a 14-week period, in observation and tutorial roles. The second consists of 60 full days of internship under the guidance of a master classroom teacher. Other courses also require

additional field experiences. Internship sites are located in Rock Hill and neighboring school districts.

## Student Organizations

Many early childhood majors are members of the South Carolina Early Childhood Association. The Kappa Delta Pi honor society is also available for education majors who achieve high academic honors. These organizations meet regularly and sponsor activities and guest speakers.

## Certification

Early childhood education graduates are certified to teach from pre-kindergarten through grade 3 in South Carolina.

## Careers

Upon graduation, early childhood education majors attain work in various education facilities from child care management to classroom teaching. Some students choose to begin graduate school as they work toward leadership positions in education.

## Faculty

The education faculty at Winthrop is highly devoted to teaching. All of the full-time teaching faculty hold their terminal degree, a Ph.D. or Ed.D, indicating a high level of knowledge of their specialty areas. They also participate in a variety of professional activities, coordinate Winthrop programs and volunteer in the Rock Hill community. Education majors have plenty of opportunity to interact with their professors and establish the contacts they will need for advanced study and employment.

## Admission Criteria

All students seeking to complete the B.S. in early childhood education must meet all admission requirements:

- ◆ Complete minimum of 45 semester hours (15 of which must be completed at Winthrop University)
- ◆ Achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75
- ◆ Formal admission to the Teacher Education Program
- ◆ Successful completion of 124 semester hours with minimum GPA of 2.75
- ◆ Complete Praxis II examinations in the Early Childhood Education content area
- ◆ Successful completion of competency review by Early Childhood Education program area committee cumulative 2.75 grade point average.

## Graduate School

Because of state requirements, continuing professional development is essential and necessary for all early childhood education graduates. Winthrop University offers Professional Development Courses (WPDC) for re-certification or other professional development needs. Winthrop University also offers a Master of Education in curriculum and instruction with options in early childhood education.

## The Student's Perspective

"Winthrop's early childhood education program taught me both content and pedagogical knowledge, which go hand-in-hand in forming highly qualified teachers. Professors in the early childhood program are always willing and eager to help students, while maintaining high expectations and providing first-hand experiences. With resources like Macfeat Laboratory School, located in the Withers/W.T.S. building, ECED majors get first-hand experience observing, planning for and interacting with preschool and kindergarten age children. There is no better program to prepare future teachers!"

*Brittany Hilton*

*2008 early childhood education graduate*



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