

Preschool to 3rd Grade (P-3) Early Childhood Education Teacher Certification Program
****Subject to review to meet new state ECE certification standards***

The Early Childhood Education P-3 Teacher Certification Program prepares students for a career in teaching young children. Coursework for this program is designed to maximize in-classroom mentorship and to provide a broad range of exposure across the preschool to 3rd grade levels. However, student teaching will be in preschool and kindergarten settings. This competitive program within the Young Child Specialization in the Family Studies Department is approved by the New Hampshire State Board of Education. Reciprocity of the P-3 certification with other states varies. Students interested in teaching in others states should contact each state directly.

This program requires 76 credits of pre-approved departmental and supporting course work. Requirements and instructions for the application process for this program are detailed below. Students who wish to be considered for the P-3 Teacher Certification Program must indicate their interest at the time of application to the major so that an appropriate plan of study can be arranged.

Application requirements

Juniors in the Young Child Specialization who have maintained a *minimum* overall GPA of 2.8, a departmental GPA of 3.0 are eligible to apply. Please note that this is a competitive program with limited enrollment. Those accepted into the program must maintain this level of achievement throughout the program and must be prepared to have their own transportation for off-campus placements as needed. Applications are available through the Family Studies departmental website, and are due by February 15 of each year. Completed applications will be reviewed by the Young Child faculty and admission decisions will be made by mid March. Provisional admission may be given to those who have not yet taken and passed the PRAXIS I tests at the time of application in mid February. Final admission will be given pending the submission of passing PRAXIS I test scores by the last day of final exams at the end of the junior year (see additional certification information below).

P-3 Program Requirements (48 Family Studies and 28 supporting course credits)

Core Foundation Courses

As with the Young Child Specialization, students must successfully complete the following department required courses (36 credits):

<u>Course</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
FS 525	Human Development
FS 545	Family Relations
FS 623	Developmental Perspectives on Infancy and Early Childhood
FS 635	Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Settings (56 classroom hours)
FS 708/709	Child Development Internship at CSDC (140 classroom hours)
FS 734	Curriculum for Young Children
FS 733	Supervising Programs for Young Children
FS 743	Families, Schools, and Community
FS 771	Observation and Assessment of Young Children

Required P-3 Senior Year Internship Courses (12 credits)

The final phase of the P-3 Certification Program is comprised of three courses including a culminating student teaching experience. Students are expected to follow the vacation schedule of their placement site and **not** the UNH Spring Break vacation schedule, and must have their own transportation to and from the placement site for both semesters.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Course Title</u> (see course descriptions below)
FS 785	2	Seminar for Student Teachers – Fall Semester
FS 786	2	Seminar for Student Teachers – Spring Semester
FS 788	8	Student Teaching of Young Children – Spring Semester

Other Required Courses for P-3 Certification (28 credits)

These courses are subject to change to meet state certification requirements in subsequent years.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
KIN 675	4	Motor Development and Learning (or KIN 600)
THDA 522	4	Storytelling (or THDA 583)
*EDUC 500	4	Exploring Teaching (w/ placement in 1 st , 2 nd , or 3 rd grade)
EDUC 741	4	Exploring Mathematics with Young Children (OR MATH 601 Exploring Math for Teachers)
EDUC 706	4	Introduction to Reading in the Elementary School (w/ practicum in a 1 st , 2 nd , or 3 rd grade)
EDUC 760	4	Introduction to Young Children with Special Needs
*EDUC 703M	2	Teaching Elementary School Social Studies (w/ focus on 1 st , 2 nd , or 3 rd grade on assignments)
*EDUC 703F	2	Teaching Elementary School Science (w/ focus on 1 st , 2 nd , or 3 rd grade on assignments)

A Note About Obtaining State Teacher Certification

Provisionally admitted P-3 teacher candidates are expected to submit passing PRAXIS I test scores by the last day of the UNH Spring final exams of their junior year. All P-3 program teacher candidates are expected to **take the PRAXIS II for ECE CONTENT prior to graduation**. PLEASE NOTE that without the required set of passing PRAXIS I and II test scores, although students may graduate from UNH with a Bachelor's degree in Family Studies and have completed the P-3 coursework along with all student teaching requirements, they **will not** be eligible to apply for the New Hampshire State P-3 Teaching Certificate. This is a State of NH requirement; not a condition for graduation from UNH. Information on the PRAXIS Tests is available on www.ets.org/praxis.

In order to fulfill a teaching contract with a public school district, a prospective teacher must be certified by the state in which he/she is to be employed. Certification by the state is not an automatic event upon graduation and must be initiated by the teacher candidate. If certification by the state of New Hampshire is desired, P-3 teacher candidates must complete and mail in the necessary forms which will be given to them at the end of the successful student teaching experience by the UNH Certification Officer. Issuance of a teaching certificate in many states is based upon the specific certificate received in the home state. If application is not made in a timely manner upon graduation, the teacher candidate is subject to any new requirements in place at the time of application.

P-3 Internship Course Descriptions

FS 785 is a fall semester seminar-based course intended to prepare students, as teacher candidates, for the student teaching experience in the spring semester. This course emphasizes students' continued development as learners, researchers, and collaborators. Discussions and projects focus on the ways in which these three roles are developed within the classroom and school community. Students meet as a cohort in weekly/bi-weekly seminars on campus. Students should expect to spend a **minimum of three hours per week** in their assigned classroom (42+ hours) and become first aid/CPR certified. Other expectations for this course include, but not limited to, preparing a resumé, observing at other sites, attending professional conferences, starting a professional portfolio to document their achievement of professional teaching standards, and completing additional assignments and readings.

FS 786 and 788 provide the capstone student teaching experience in the spring semester of the senior year. Students should expect to spend a **minimum of twenty-four hours per week** (a *minimum* of 300 hours total) in their assigned classrooms, gradually assuming increasing teaching responsibilities, culminating in the assumption of two to three lead-teaching weeks. Additional hours outside of actual classroom/program operation hours are expected for meeting and planning with cooperating teachers, preparing for teaching, and attending parent conferences and other school functions, as well as attending professional conferences. Seminars provide continued opportunity for reflection on students' development as teacher candidates, reflecting on classroom practices, identifying teaching strengths and weaknesses, and planning for their first professional appointment as teachers of young learners. Students should be prepared to meet weekly or bi-weekly on campus after school hours, and to complete and present their professional portfolio to faculty and related professionals in the field.

Family Studies Early Childhood Education (P-3) Teacher Certification Program Application

Application deadline: February 15

A complete application packet includes:

- A completed Application for P-3 Teacher Certification Program form.
- A copy of all undergraduate transcript(s).
- A copy of the Praxis I (PPST) test score if you have already taken it. If you have not yet taken the Praxis I, include a note about **WHEN** you plan to take it.
- A professional resumé detailing your educational, work, and volunteer background.
- A letter of application (not to exceed three pages, doubled spaced, using 12-point font) which addresses:
 - Your reasons for wanting to teach young children and your beliefs about the teaching and learning process.
 - Why you want to be in this program and what aspects of this program attract you.
 - A summary of the relevant experience you have had working with young children, including volunteer and paid work, and how this experience has prepared you for teaching young children.
 - The characteristics that make you a strong candidate for this program and the assets that you bring to this program.
 - Personal qualities related to your role as a teacher that you feel need work the most, and why.
 - Your career goals/plans after graduation.
 - What your preferred placement for student teaching would be if you are admitted to the program, and why. Please note that placements will be in a pre-approved preschool or kindergarten program; not in the elementary grades.
- Three positive letters of recommendation from faculty and professionals who can attest to your:
 - Interest in and commitment to teaching young children.
 - Academic and analytical ability.
 - Interpersonal skills.
 - Communication skills (oral and written).
 - Reliability, flexibility, initiative and motivation.
 - Understanding of the principles of developmentally appropriate practice.
 - Relationship with children.
 - Potential for developing into an effective teacher of young children.

Submit ALL MATERIALS to Matty Leighton, 218B Pettie Hall, by February 15.

UNH Department of Family Studies
Application for Early Childhood Education (P-3) Teacher Certification Program

Due February 15 in Pettee Hall Room 218B

Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Local Address: _____

_____ Anticipated Date of Graduation: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Local Telephone: _____

Coursework

NOTE: The P-3 Certification Program requires 76 credits of departmental and supporting course work. Students are only allowed to take ONE other course in addition to the 10 credits of student teaching coursework during the capstone spring semester. Students may petition to take a second course if needed. Please mark next to each course the semester you have taken it (or plan to take it) and the grade you received. Also, please note that to obtain the New Hampshire P-3 Early Childhood Education Teaching Certificate, teacher candidates must submit passing scores from the PRAXIS II ECE test at the time of application to the State of NH for the teaching certificate.

Family Studies Courses

Supporting Courses

<u>Course</u>	<u>Semester</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Semester</u>	<u>Grade</u>
FS 525	_____	_____	EDUC 500	_____	_____
FS 545	_____	_____	EDUC 760 ECE Special Ed.	_____	_____
FS 623	_____	_____	THDA 522/583	_____	_____
FS 635	_____	_____	KIN 675/600	_____	_____
FS 708/709	_____	_____	MATH 601	_____	_____
FS 734	_____	_____	EDUC 703 Science	_____	_____
FS 733	_____	_____	EDUC 703 Social Studies	_____	_____
FS 743	_____	_____	EDUC 706 Reading	_____	_____
FS 771	_____	_____	Other(s): _____	_____	_____
Other(s):	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Current overall GPA? _____

Current departmental GPA? _____

PRAXIS I Scores: Date taken: _____ Scores: _____

Please attach a copy of your transcripts and PRAXIS I scores to this application. If you have not yet taken the PRAXIS I test,

please indicate: WHEN you plan to take it: _____

WHEN you will receive the scores: _____

A provisional admission may be given to qualified applicants at this first round of reviews. Final admission will not be granted unless passing PRAXIS I test scores are received in the Family Studies office by the end of the spring semester.

Placement

Please rank your placement preference if accepted in order from 1 – 4, with 1 being your first choice. Your preference for your student teaching placement as indicated below will be taken into consideration; however, the faculty reserves the right to determine the best match.

- _____ Private kindergarten at CSDC
- _____ Public kindergarten at a school district to be determined
- _____ Private preschool at CSDC’s 4 - 5 year-old full day program
- _____ Public inclusive preschool program at a school district to be determined

Recommendations

Letters of recommendation have been requested from:

Name	Position	Relationship (i.e., Supervisor, Instructor, Employer, etc.)

Experience

List all relevant work and/or volunteer experience you have had working with young children (you may use the space provided below or attach a separate sheet to this application).

Where	Dates	Position and Responsibilities	Age of Children

I certify that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate.

Signature

Date

3. What are this applicant's strengths?

4. What should this applicant continue to work on?

5. What is your view about this applicant's potential for becoming a teacher?

6. Please check the category below that most accurately describes the applicant's ability to successfully complete the P-3 program:

- Highly recommend
- Recommend
- Recommend with reservation
- I do not recommend this applicant

Referee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Position /Title: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____