

Young Child Specialization

The Young Child Specialization is designed for students who have a broad interest in working with young children ranging in age from birth to eight years. This specialization has three major foci that include child development, developmentally appropriate curriculum development and socio-constructivist teaching methodologies, and home-school-community relations. This specialization prepares undergraduates for careers in early childhood education and related fields requiring a strong knowledge of early development and early childhood programs. Please consult the *Professional Development and Career Opportunities* booklet for a listing of possible careers.

Students who are interested in pursuing a teaching career with preschool and kindergarten-aged children are highly encouraged to apply for admission to the competitive Nursery-Kindergarten Teaching Certificate Program during the fall of the junior year (see the N-K Program overview for description, requirements, and application procedures). Those who plan to pursue the master's program in the Education Department should take EDUC 500 as early in their undergraduate program as possible AND work with BOTH their Family Studies advisor and an Education Department advisor to ensure a smooth application into that graduate program.

Departmental Requirements (Minimum of 36 Credits)

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
FS 525	4	Human Development
FS 545	4	Family Relations
FS 623	4	Developmental Perspectives on Infancy and Early Childhood
FS 635*	4	Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Settings
FS 708/709*	4 to 8	Advanced Nursery School and Child Development Internship
FS 733	4	Supervising Programs for Young Children
FS 734	4	Curriculum for Young Children
FS 743	4	Families, Schools, and Community
FS 771	4	Observation and Assessment of Young Children

***Practicum-Based Courses:**

FS 635 – Weekly seminar and weekly 4-hour laboratory experience working with nursery school children at the UNH Child Study and Development Center (CSDC).

Lab times arranged when requesting permission
Prerequisites – FS 525 and FS 623
Permission required
Special fee
4 credits

FS 708/709 - Weekly 10-hour internship working with children between birth and 5 years at the CSDC (www.csdc.unh.edu) and weekly 1-hour seminar.

Prerequisites – FS 623 and 635
Permission required
Special fee
CR/F
Four credits are required and may be repeated up to a total of 8 credits.

Major Requirements

PSYCH 402 or SOC 502 or HHS 540

Supporting Courses

Recommended supporting courses may include but not limited to the following list. A minimum of 20 credits is required, of which 12 must come from outside Family Studies and 2 must be at the 700 level. Please consult with your advisor.

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
FS 760	Family Programs and Policies
FS 757	Race, Class, Gender and Families
FS 772	International Approaches to Child Advocacy
FS 773	International Perspectives on Children and Families
FS 794	Families and the Law
FS 797	Advanced Special Topics - Families in Poverty
KIN 675	Motor Development and Learning (or KIN 600 Movement and Gymnastics)
THDA 622	Storytelling, Story Theatre and Involvement Dramatics
THDA 583	Introduction to Puppetry
EDUC 500	Exploring Teaching
EDUC 706	Introduction to Reading in the Elementary School
EDUC 733	Introduction to the Teaching of Writing
EDUC 734	Children's Literature
EDUC 741	Exploring Mathematics with YC (or MATH 601 Exploring Mathematics for Teachers I)
EDUC 750	Introduction to Exceptionality
EDUC 751A	Educating Exceptional Learners: Elementary
EDUC 760	Introduction to Young Children with Special Needs
PSYCH 780	Prenatal Development and Infancy
PSYCH 783	Cognitive Development
PSYCH 785	Social Development
SW 705	Child Welfare: Policies, Programs, and Practice
SOC 520	The Family
SOC 525	Juvenile Crime and Delinquency
SOC 540	Social Problems

Students are responsible for insuring they have met all requirements.

Nursery-Kindergarten Teacher Certification Program

As an extension of the Young Child Specialization, the Nursery-Kindergarten (N-K) Teacher Certification Program prepares students for a career in teaching preschool and kindergarten-aged children. It is accredited by the New Hampshire State Board of Education and is in the process of becoming accredited by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). Reciprocity of the NK certification with other states varies. Students interested in teaching at the preschool or kindergarten level in others states should contact each state directly or check the University of Kentucky's "Certification Requirements for 50 States" web site at <http://www.uky.edu/Education/TEP/usacert.html>.

This program requires 68 credits of pre-approved departmental and supporting course work. A passing score on the PRAXIS I teaching competency test will also be required for application for the State of New Hampshire's N-K Teaching Certificate. Requirements and instructions for the application process for this program are detailed below. It is advisable for students who wish to be considered for the N-K Teacher Certification Program to indicate interest as early as possible in their academic careers so that an appropriate plan of study can be arranged.

Application Requirements

Juniors in the Young Child Specialization who have maintained an overall GPA of 2.8 and a departmental GPA of 3.0 at the time of application are eligible to apply. 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 by the beginning of fall semester through the Family Studies departmental office, and are due by January 15 of each year. Completed applications will be reviewed by the Young Child faculty and admission decisions will be made by the middle of February. Each application packet must include:

- ▶ A completed Application for N-K Certification Program form
- ▶ A personal resumé detailing the applicant's educational and work background
- ▶ A letter of application (not to exceed three pages, doubled spaced, using 12-point font) which addresses:
 - The student's reasons for wanting to teach nursery/kindergarten children and the aspects of teaching that attract him/her
 - How the relevant experience the student has had working with young children, including volunteer and paid work, has prepared him/her for teaching young children
 - The characteristics that make the student a strong candidate for teaching young children and the assets that student now has to bring to a preschool/kindergarten experience
 - Personal qualities related to the student's role as teacher that he/she feels need work the most and why
 - The student's career goals/plans after graduation
- ▶ Three positive letters of recommendation from faculty (one must be from the FS 635 instructor) and professionals who can attest to:
 - The quality of the student's paid and/or volunteer work
 - The student's interest in teaching young children
 - The student's potential for developing into an effective teacher of young children in early childhood settings.

Young Child Program Requirements

As enrollees in the Young Child Specialization, students must successfully complete the following department-required courses:

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
FS 525	4	Human Development
FS 545	4	Family Relations
FS 623	4	Developmental Perspectives on Infancy and Early Childhood
FS 635*	4	Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Settings
FS 708/709*	4 to 8	Advanced Nursery School and Child Development Practica
FS 733	4	Supervising Programs for Young Children
FS 734	4	Curriculum for Young Children
FS 743	4	Families, Schools, and Community
FS 771	4	Observation and Assessment of Young Children

*Please refer to the Young Child Specialization overview for details on these practicum-based courses.

Major Requirements

All Family Studies majors must complete a statistics course:

PSYCH 402 or SOC 502 or HHS 540

Senior-Year Courses Required for N-K (12 credits)

The final phase of the N-K 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>
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

*See course descriptions below.

Other Courses Required for N-K Certification (24 credits)

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
KIN 675	4	Motor Development and Learning (or KIN 600 Movement and Gymnastics Exploration)
THDA 583	4	Introduction to Puppetry
EDUC 741	4	Exploring Mathematics with Young Children (or MATH 601 Exploring Math for Teachers)
EDUC 500	4	Exploring Teaching
EDUC 706	4	Introduction to Reading in the Elementary School
EDUC 760	4	Introduction to Young Children with Special Needs

N-K Student-Teaching 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 and become first aid/CPR certified. Other expectations for this course include, but not limited to, preparing a resumé, opening a file with the Career Planning and Placement Office, observing at other sites, attending professional conferences, 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 hours per week* 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. Students should also be aware that some schools may require a criminal background check before placement is finalized. Arrangements for criminal background checks are the responsibility of the student and the requesting school, not the Department of Family Studies.

For Those Seeking to Pursue Graduate Studies in Elementary Education

Those who plan to pursue the master's program in the Education Department should take EDUC 500 as early in their undergraduate program as possible and work with ***BOTH*** their Family Studies advisor ***and*** an Education Department advisor to ensure a smooth application into that graduate program. The PRAXIS I test may be waived for those admitted to the graduate program in Elementary Education with acceptable GRE scores.