To prepare highly skilled professionals to assume roles and positions in teaching, research, educational leadership, and human development to contribute to the educational achievement of all young children ages 0-5 years in early childhood settings.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. The candidate will demonstrate competency to plan and teach developmentally appropriate practices in early care and early childhood education settings for children ages 0-5.
2. The candidate will demonstrate the ability to build family and community relationships.
3. The candidate will demonstrate how to use observations, documentation, and other developmentally appropriate assessment strategies in early childhood settings.
4. The candidate will demonstrate knowledge, understanding, teaching, ethics, research, and leadership in the early childhood profession.

A – GENERAL EDUCATION CORE – 42 HOURS
Students must fulfill the General Education Core requirements. The courses listed below satisfy both degree requirements and General Education core requirements.

Required

Language, Philosophy, and Culture – 3 hours
PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy (or PHIL 1387 Honors)

Integrative and Experiential Learning – 3 hours
Must choose 3 hours from Computer Applications.

B – MAJOR REQUIREMENTS – 56 HOURS (41 advanced)

1 – Early Care and Early Childhood Studies Core—30 hours (21 advanced)
ECEC 2301 Foundations of Early Care and Development
ECEC 2309 Family Care and Education in the Community
ECEC 2310 Quality Programs for Infants and Toddlers
ECEC 3302 Math Curriculum for Young Children
ECEC 3303 Early Literacy Development during Early Childhood
ECEC 3304 Science Curriculum for Young Children
ECEC 3305 Role of Play in Early Care and Early Education
ECEC 3307 Knowledge and Skills of Preschool Teachers: Profession, Standards and Ethics
ECEC 3308 Quality and Developmentally Appropriate Environments for Children Ages 0-5
ECEC 4306 Aesthetic Development in Early Care and Early Education

2 – Advanced Early Care and Early Childhood Studies – 26 hours (20 advanced)
ACCT 2301 Introduction to Financial Accounting
ACCT 2302 Fundamentals of Managerial Accounting
ECEC 4214 Internship in Early Childhood Settings
ECEC 4311 Observing, Assessing, and Guiding Behavior of Young Children
ECEC 4312 Administration of Child Development Centers
ECEC 4313 Multicultural Perspectives in Early Care and Early Education
EDBE 3323 The Development of Bilingualism
ENGL 4360 Fundamentals of Language Development
Choose one:
SPED 4310 Inclusion and Differentiated Instruction in Special Education
SPED 3390 Introduction to Exceptional Children

C – FREE ELECTIVES – 22 HOURS (9 advanced)
Choose 22 hours of electives, of which 9 hours must be advanced. Recommended areas include: COMD, COMM, DIET, EDBE, HLTH, KINE, MUSI, PSYC, SOCW, SPED, and/or SPAN.

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION – 120 HOURS

TOTAL ADVANCED HOURS – 50 HOURS

ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, if applicable:

Admission requirements
Students must complete an application and a criminal check. Non-certification Program does not require Teacher Certification program admission.

Progression requirements
A GPA of 2.5 for progression is required.