

Human Development and Family Studies

Early Childhood Education Teacher Preparation Program

The Early Childhood Education Teacher Preparation 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 from birth to 3rd Grade. This competitive program within the Child Development Concentration in the Human Development and Family Studies Department is approved by the New Hampshire State Board of Education (NH Credentialing Endorsement: Early Childhood Education (N-3), EIS Code 1866, Admin Rule #507.18. The reciprocity of the certification with other states varies, so students interested in teaching in other states should contact each state directly.



This program requires 76 credits of pre-approved departmental and supporting coursework. Requirements and instructions for the application process for this program are detailed below. These courses are subject to change to meet state certification requirements in subsequent years. Students who wish to be considered for the 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

Please note that this is a competitive program. Juniors in the Child Development Concentration who have a *minimum* overall GPA of 3.2, and a departmental GPA of 3.2 are eligible to apply. Any course taken for a teacher licensure requirement must be completed with a grade of B- or better. Those accepted into the program must maintain this level of achievement throughout the program. Students must be prepared to have their own transportation for off-campus placements as needed.

Applications are available through the department website and are due by **March 1** of each year. Completed applications will be reviewed by the HDFS faculty and conditional admission decisions will be made by mid-March.

Final admission into the program is contingent upon submission to the New Hampshire Department of Education's passing [Basic Academic Skill Assessment Scores](#) (i.e., PRAXIS Core Academic Skills for Educators or approved test evaluation request) and [criminal background check](#). It is highly recommended that these requirements be completed before submission of your application. If these requirements are not met by the first day of class of the senior year fall semester, official acceptance into the program will not be granted.

Program Requirements

These courses are subject to change to meet state certification requirements in subsequent years. Any course taken for a teacher licensure requirement must be completed with a grade of B- or better.

Child Development Concentration Foundation Courses (36 Credits):

<u>Course</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
HDFS 525	Human Development
HDFS 545	Intimate Relationships and Families
HDFS 555	Research Methods in HDFS (students admitted to UNH before Fall 2023 have the option to meet this requirement with an approach statics course)
HDFS 623	Developmental Perspectives on Infancy and Early Childhood
HDFS 635	Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Settings (56 classroom hours)
HDFS 684	Curriculum for Young Children
HDFS 709	Child Development Internship at CSDC (140 classroom hours)
HDFS 743	Families, Schools, and Community
HDFS 771	Observation and Assessment of Young Children

Required Senior Year Internship Courses (12 credits)

The final phase of the program is comprised of three courses including a culminating student teaching experience.

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

Other Required Courses for Teacher Preparation (28 credits)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
EDUC 500	Exploring Teaching
MATH 601	Exploring Math for Teachers I
MATH 703	MATH 703 Teaching of Mathematics in Grades K-5
EDUC 706	Introduction to Reading in the Elementary School
EDUC 703M	Teaching Elementary School Social Studies
EDUC 703F	Teaching Elementary School Science
EDUC 751A <u>or</u> 760	EDUC 751A Educating Exceptional Learners: Elementary <u>or</u> EDUC 760 Introduction to Young Children with Special Needs

Obtaining State Teacher Certification

For detailed information about the State of New Hampshire Department of Education Certification requirements, please visit the [Bureau of Credentialing](#).

Before official acceptance into the program (first day of the fall semester), applicants must meet [Basic Academic Skill Assessment](#) (BASA) and [criminal background check](#) requirements.

BASA requirements can be met by passing the [PRAXIS Core Academic Skills for Educators](#) or receiving approval from the Test New Hampshire Department of Education via a [Test Evaluation Request](#). Historically, test evaluation requests require submission of nationally recognized test scores in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics (e.g., SAT, GRE, or ACT) indicating performance at or above the 50th percentile on or passing scores on an out-of-state test comparable to Praxis Core (e.g., Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure, MTEL). It is preferred that you complete this requirement, and criminal background check requirements by the time you apply to the program.

All teacher candidates are expected to take the [PRAXIS II Education of Young Children](#) and the [New Hampshire Foundation of Reading Test](#) before graduation. Both tests are required to meet the State of New Hampshire's credentialing [subject area test requirements](#). Support for the completion of these testing requirements will be provided while in the program, including option for having an out-of-state/national subject test evaluated for comparability. PLEASE NOTE that without the required PRAXIS II and Foundations of Reading test scores, students may graduate from UNH with a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies and have completed the coursework along with all student teaching requirements, they **will not** be eligible to apply for the New Hampshire State Teaching Certificate. This is a State of NH requirement; not a condition for graduation from UNH.

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, teacher candidates must complete the necessary [application requirements](#) **within 3 years of graduation**. Issuance of a teaching certificate in many states is based upon the specific certificate received in the home state. If the application is not made promptly upon graduation, the teacher candidate is subject to any new requirements in place at the time of application.

Internship Course Descriptions

HDFS 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 how these three roles are developed within the classroom and school community. Students meet as a cohort in weekly seminars on campus.

Students should expect to spend a **minimum of five hours per week** in their assigned classroom (60+ hours). 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.



HDFS 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-five hours per week** (a *minimum* of 325+ 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, attending parent conferences, and other school functions, as well as attending professional conferences. Seminars provide continued opportunities 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 after school hours and to complete and present their professional portfolio to faculty and related professionals in the field.