PK-3 ECE SPECIALIST INSTRUCTION CREDENTIAL

Program Description

The PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential is designed to prepare candidates for teaching in self-contained early childhood settings from preschool to grade 3. The program also allows for English learner authorization and potential to add a Bilingual Authorization in Spanish.

The program offers a traditional student teaching pathway where candidates are not contracted teachers and assigned to a mentor teacher for their supervised practicum. Candidates will have two semesters of clinical practice (one in PK/TK and one in K-3 setting). Candidates will also be able to receive up to 200 hours of clinical practice equivalency based on the guidelines set forth by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). The program will also offer an intern option after students have completed their pre-service courses and are offered a teacher position in a school/district that has a Memo of Understanding with the College of Education.

The program is structured in 3 semesters in the traditional student teaching pathway. Students can complete their first semester during their last semester of their senior year or as a post-baccalaureate. During the last two semesters of the credential program, students will participate in practicum in a range of settings. Students can receive up to 200 hours of clinical practice equivalency (based on the criteria set by CCTC in the PK-3 Handbook). However, students will need sufficient hours to meet expectations set forth by their practicum setting and to complete both cycles of the California Teaching Performance Assessment (CalTPA). Depending on when students switch over to the intern credential, they may take up to 4 semesters.

Coursework and practicum will provide students the opportunity to apply knowledge of the Teaching Performance Expectations (TPEs) for the PK-3 credential. The program is designed to engage future PK-3 teachers to design, implement, and facilitate learning activities based on students' developmental levels. The program also prepares teachers to work in urban schools with multicultural and multilingual students with diverse needs. The program ensures candidates learn how to use state adopted student content standards and frameworks such as California's K-3 Student Content Standards and Frameworks and the Preschool Learning Foundations and Curriculum Framework to provide accessible for all young children.

The PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential will be accredited by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC, 1900 Capitol Street, Sacramento, CA 95814).

Pathways Options

There are two pathways that candidates can take in the program: Student Teaching Pathway and Intern Pathway. The traditional Student Teaching Pathway will allow students to complete their clinical practice in two different settings (PK/TK and K-3) in a Pre-Student Teaching practicum and a Student Teaching practicum. Candidates in this option may receive up to 200 hours of clinical practice equivalency for their prior ECE teaching experience or undergraduate supervised ECE practicum (criteria set by the CCTC). Students who receive 200 hours of clinical practice equivalency do not need to complete the Pre-Student Teaching Practicum in PK/TK (200 hours), and they will complete the Student Teaching Practicum in a K-3 setting (400 hours). The Intern Pathway will allow candidates who receive an offer of employment to work as an intern teacher in PK-3 settings. Candidates will complete the Pre-Student Teaching Practicum and Seminar in one of two settings (PK/TK OR K-3) and complete their Advanced Intern Practicum in the other setting. If candidates receive 200 hours of clinical practice equivalency for an ECE setting, they will complete their Initial and Advanced Intern Practicums in a K-3 setting.

Admission Requirements

Apply to the University

- Baccalaureate degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education
- Official transcripts of all colleges with degree posted
- 2.50 GPA in the last 60 semester units attempted or 2.50 in all baccalaureate and post baccalaureate coursework
- Verification of subject matter
- Copy of valid Certificate of Clearance. Live Scan Service form must be filed with the State of California, Commission on Teacher Credentialing
- Evidence of current negative TB test results or chest x-ray, no older than 4 years at the time of start term
- Equitable Standards for Clinical Practice
- 2 Letters of Recommendation
- Verification of U.S. Constitution
- Essay

Program Requirements

There are two pathways that candidates can take in the program: Student Teaching and Intern.

Student Teaching Pathway

The traditional Student Teaching Pathway will allow students to complete their clinical practice in two different settings (PK/TK and K-3) in a Pre-Student Teaching practicum and a Student Teaching practicum.

Code	Title	Hours
Semester 1		
ECE 400	Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood Education	3
LBS 410	Early Language and Literacy	3
LBS 430	STEAM for Young Learners	3
TED 461	Foundations of Educational Justice I	3-4
or LBS 370	Multicultural Studies	
or CDV 363	Development in Diverse Contexts	
Semester 2		
ECE 450	Curriculum and Instruction 1: Engaging Families in Instruction and Assessment	3
ECE 468	CalTPA Math Cycle	2
ECE 420	Math for Early Childhood and Elementary Learners	3
SPE 482	Educating Students with Special Needs within Inclusive Settings	3
ECE 469	Pre-Student Teaching Practicum	6
ECE 470	Pre-Student Teaching Seminar	1
Semester 3		
ECE 451	Curriculum and Instruction 2: Integrated Methods	3

ECE 460	Language and Literacy for K-3	3
ECE 478	CalTPA Literacy Cycle	2
ECE 479	Teaching Practicum	6
ECE 480	Final Teaching Seminar	1
Total Hours		**45-46**

Intern Pathway

The Intern Pathway will allow candidates who receive an offer of employment to work as a university intern teacher in TK-3 settings. Candidates will complete the Pre-Student Teaching Practicum and Seminar in one of two settings (PK/TK OR K-3) and complete their Teaching Practicum in the other setting.

Code	Title	Hours
Semester 1		
ECE 400	Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood Education	3
LBS 410	Early Language and Literacy	3
LBS 430	STEAM for Young Learners	3
TED 461	Foundations of Educational Justice I	3-4
or LBS 370	Multicultural Studies	
or CDV 363	Development in Diverse Contexts	
Semester 2		
ECE 450	Curriculum and Instruction 1: Engaging Families in Instruction and Assessment	3
ECE 420	Math for Early Childhood and Elementary Learners	3
SPE 482	Educating Students with Special Needs within Inclusive Settings	3
ECE 468	CalTPA Math Cycle	2
ECE 469	Pre-Student Teaching Practicum	6
or ECE 471	Initial Intern Practicum	
ECE 470	Pre-Student Teaching Seminar	1
Semester 3		
ECE 451	Curriculum and Instruction 2: Integrated Methods	3
ECE 460	Language and Literacy for K-3	3
ECE 478	CalTPA Literacy Cycle	2
ECE 479	Teaching Practicum	6
or ECE 481	Advanced Intern Practicum	
ECE 480	Final Teaching Seminar	1
Total Hours		**45-46**