



## Key Components

- Foundation Core (12 credits) – Early Childhood Education students take Foundation Core courses in professional development and research methods, both as a cohort and together with Ph.D. students from Counseling and Educational Leadership.
- Department Core (32 credits) – The Department Core courses for the Early Childhood Education major are taken in early childhood (EC) and special education (SE).
- Cognate Area (20 credits) – Each student selects courses in a Cognate Area (related field such as literacy, special education, leadership, applied behavior analysis or counseling).
- Dissertation (16 credits) – Each student proposes, conducts and defends a research study that contributes to the field of early childhood education.

### ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Selection of adviser and committee (approved by Ph.D. coordinator)
- Approved plan of study
- Approved online portfolio
- Successful completion of comprehensive qualifying exams
- Committee approval of dissertation proposal and presentation, completion of dissertation and successful final oral defense of the dissertation

*"The PhD in Early Childhood is extremely rewarding! The intellectual risks the program afforded me, gave me the much needed practice to embrace the unknown, to be adaptive and to thrive in the learning zone. This degree continues to add value to my work today [and to the people I serve]."*

La Tricia Clark, Ph.D., CEO and Founder  
EduVation Consulting

*Admission to this program is selective.  
Applications will be reviewed and  
considered on a rolling basis until  
July 1 for the subsequent fall semester.*

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[oakland.edu/hdcs](http://oakland.edu/hdcs)

### OR CONTACT

*Doctoral Coordinator*

Dr. Tomoko Wakabayashi

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### APPLY TODAY

Learn how to apply at [oakland.edu/grad/howtoapply](http://oakland.edu/grad/howtoapply)

When you're ready, apply at [oakland.edu/applynow](http://oakland.edu/applynow)

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SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
AND HUMAN SERVICES

*Ph.D. in Education:*

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
AND CHILD STUDIES**



## Program Overview

The Doctor of Philosophy in Education: Early Childhood Education program prepares professionals to assume leadership roles in the expanding field of early childhood education and care.

Ph.D. graduates accept positions as college and university professors, intermediate school district consultants, agency or program directors or work in other leadership positions.

This doctoral program allows for part-time or full-time study. Seminars and field projects provide students with a variety of leadership experiences in early childhood, curriculum and program development, assessment, applied research and evaluation, adult instruction and policy design.

### ADVANTAGES

- Preparation for leadership roles in early childhood education
- Development of skills in program development, research and policy initiatives
- Mentorship and collaboration with faculty via seminars and projects
- Flexibility in plans of study to accommodate full-time professionals
- Financial-aid approved

### PROGRAM CREDITS / DETAIL

- Requires 64 credits in courses beyond master's degree plus 16 dissertation credits
- Admits new students for a cohort each fall semester
- Accepts applications for fall admission throughout the year up to July 1

### ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

- Three or more years of professional experience in early childhood education or allied field
- Completion of master's or equivalent degree in early childhood education or allied field
- A minimum graduate school GPA of 3.6

## Typical Plan of Study

Below is a typical sequence of coursework and other requirements for completing the Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education (EC). It also shows the semesters during which specific courses are typically offered. There is flexibility in the sequence of courses taken, in how many courses are taken each term and in the length of time taken to complete the degree.

Students are required to successfully complete coursework and comprehensive qualifying exams within six years. After completing exams, students are required to complete a dissertation and final oral defense in the next one to four years.

### YEAR 1 (20 CREDITS):

- Fall: EC 9940 (2) Professional Seminar I  
EC 9946 (4) Development and Early Learning: Theories and Research Studies
- Winter: EC 9941 (2) Professional Seminar II  
EC 9947 (4) Ecology of Early Learning: Health, Care, and Education
- Summer: EC 9931 Field Project I (4); or EC 9971 or SE 9970 Independent Study; or cognate course in related area of interest (e.g., special education, leadership, literacy)

### YEAR 2 (24 CREDITS):

- Fall: EC 9944 (4) Paradigms of Early Education and Curriculum Design  
EC 9010 (4) Research Methodology (Qualitative)
- Winter: EC 9945 (4) Curriculum Investigation: Practice and Theory  
EC 9020 (4) Analytical Methods (Quantitative)
- Summer: EC 9932 Field Project II (4); or EC 9971 or SE 9970 Independent Study; or cognate course

### YEAR 3 (20 CREDITS):

- Fall: SE 9972 (4) Special Education: Early Childhood Seminar; Cognate course
- Winter: EC 9948 (4) Policy Studies in Early Education: Culture, Economics and politics; Cognate course
- Summer: EC 9971 or SE 9970 Independent Study; or cognate courses

### YEAR 4 AND/OR BEYOND (16 CREDITS):

- Fall: EC 9998 (1 to 8) Dissertation Development Seminar I: Comprehensive Qualifying Exam Preparation and Dissertation Proposal
- Winter: EC 9999 (1 to 8) Dissertation Development Seminar II: Dissertation Implementation, Analysis and Writing

### COMPLETE WRITING OF DISSERTATION AND FINAL ORAL DEFENSE

(\*NOTE: EC 9931, EC 9932, EC 9971; SE 9970; EC 9998 and EC 9999 are offered every term.)

