Indiana University
Request for a New Credit Certificate Program

Campus: Indiana University East

Proposed Title of Certificate Program: Early Childhood Education Certificate

Projected Date of Implementation: Fall 2014

TYPE OF CERTIFICATE:  (check one)

UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATES – These programs generally require 12-29 credits of undergraduate-level academic work.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATES – These programs generally require 12-29 credits of graduate-level academic work or undergraduate academic work carrying graduate credit.

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATES – These programs generally require 12-29 credits of undergraduate-level academic work, although students enrolling in these programs must have completed their baccalaureate degrees.

I. Why is this certificate needed? (Rationale)
According to the Degree Requirements contained within Section 648A of the Head Start Act of 2007, no later than Sept 30, 2013, 50 percent of the Head Start teachers nationwide in center based programs must have a baccalaureate or advanced degree in Early Childhood Education OR have experience teaching preschool children plus a baccalaureate or advanced degree in any subject with coursework equivalent to a major in Early Childhood Education. Nationwide this 50 percent goal has been surpassed; however, there are individual Head Start agencies that have not attained this 50 percent goal. It is imperative that all Head Start teachers are able to have access to courses leading to a degree or coursework equivalent to a major in Early Childhood Education.

It is recognized that coursework equivalent to a major in Early Childhood Education includes, but is not limited to, courses that focus on child development, early childhood education and curriculum, early childhood teaching and assessment, psychology, family development, health and physical development, mathematics, science, and children’s literature. Each Head Start employee must provide the Head Start program with information on the college credit courses taken and demonstrate that the courses address early childhood education or child development with a focus on children ages 3 to 5. Each Head Start program will examine the college transcripts and review course descriptions or syllabi to determine the relevance of the courses to the Head Start program. Head Start agencies in states such as Indiana, which license or certify Pre-K teachers, may also choose
to accept the type(s) and number(s) of courses recognized by the local school district or state education agency as qualifying teachers to teach pre-school aged children in that school district or state as “coursework equivalent to a major relating to early childhood education” as long as they also have experience teaching pre-school aged children (Head Start Act of 2007). The 21 hour certificate includes the courses within Indiana University East’s 15 hour Early childhood minor plus an additional early childhood focused 6 hours. This 21 hour focus will prepare individuals for the Early Childhood Education P-3 licensure. These graduates will be prepared to teach in not only Head Start programs, but in preschools which are becoming much more prevalent within the scope of public education. According to the Head Start Act of 2007, Head Start teachers will need to attend a minimum of 15 hours of professional development each year. This credential will provide the opportunity for reaching this 15 hour goal which must be a criterion within each teacher’s professional development plan.

II. List the major topics and curriculum of the certificate. 21 hour certificate (7 courses)

EDUC-F 500 Workshop in Early Childhood: Introduction to 3-5 Year Old Children (3 cr.) This course has a dual focus. The first involves an overview of the field including an historic perspective, program models, goals of early childhood education, and professional organizations. The second emphasizes the study of observation skills, the characteristics of young children, teacher-child interaction, and classroom management skills.

EDUC-E 507 Evaluation of Classroom Behavior (3 cr.) The child as a learner; goals for early childhood programs; organizing the instructional setting including, teacher roles and methods of assessing behaviors; use of this knowledge in organizing and evaluating self and a child in a program.

EDUC-E 508 Seminar in Early Childhood Education (2-3 cr.) Seminar will be based on current interests of students and will serve as a means of synthesizing their experiences. An interdisciplinary approach will be taken to exploring current issues and problems in early childhood education, current happenings as they relate to the issues, and major research efforts to support programs.

EDUC-E 525 Advanced Curriculum Study in Early Childhood Education (3 cr.) P: E506 or consent of instructor. In-depth study of those educators and philosophers, past and present, who have influenced early childhood curricula. Emphasis will be placed on the beliefs of a number of figures (such as Dewey, Piaget, Vygotsky, Montessori), and knowledge of their beliefs influences each student's educational belief system.

EDUC-F 500 Workshop in Early Childhood: Foundations in Teaching and Learning for Children Ages 3-5 (3 cr.) This course engages students in the development, implementation, and assessment of curricula for all children ages 3-5 years. Content areas of mathematics, social studies, sciences, literacy, and art will be emphasized. Field experience required.
**EDUC-E 555 Human Diversity in Education (3 cr.)** Explores issues related to teaching in a complex and diverse culture. Through this class students will become familiar with a range of diversity issues that teachers confront in our society, including cognitive abilities, learning styles, and cultural, racial, and economic backgrounds of children.

**EDUC-E 509 Internship in Elementary/Early Childhood Education (3-6 cr.)** Individualized experience is planned on the basis of the student's professional goals, previous educational background, and experience. Arrangements must be made prior to the semester during which the credit is desired.

III. What are the admission requirements?  
Students must have a baccalaureate degree.

IV. List the major student outcomes (or set of performance based standards) for the proposed certificate.  
- Able to provide evidence of and implement the theoretical and evidence-based understanding of early childhood curriculum,  
- Able to effectively integrate developmentally appropriate strategies and standards when working with young children,  
- Able to choose and implement appropriate instructional approaches and materials to meet the developmental needs of early learners,  
- Able to recognize and meet the needs of early childhood English Language Learners while building awareness, respect, and a value for cultural differences

V. Explain how student learning outcomes will be assessed (course-embedded assessment, graduate follow up, employer survey, standardized test, etc.).

The Early Childhood Education certificate will be assessed in a variety of ways.

1. Formative assessment of the Early Childhood Education certificate curriculum will be conducted through course-embedded assessment tools, development of curriculum, one on one work with individual students, successful completion of class assignments and projects, course examinations, and a variety of diagnostic measures.
2. InTASC Standards, NAEYC Standards, Indiana Early Childhood Generalist and Developmental/Pedagogy Standards, and ACEI Standards will be successfully met. Standards are aligned within each course and are assessed through a variety of course embedded assignments.
3. Best practices in Early Childhood Education will be integrated and assessed within the EDUC-E509 Internship course.
4. Yearly graduate and employer surveys will be initiated the year following the attainment of the credential by the first class.
5. Data for the InTASC Standards, NAEYC Standards, Indiana Early Childhood Generalist and Developmental/Pedagogy Standards, and ACEI Standards will be collected annually and used for program improvement.
VI. Describe student population to be served.
The students will be practicing Head Start teachers or those who wish to be employed as Head Start Teachers. Other individuals who have baccalaureate degrees who seek to specialize in the field of Early Childhood Education (Pre-K Education) will also be served.

VII. How does this certificate complement the campus or departmental mission?
The mission of the Indiana University East School of Education is to prepare teachers who are Reflective Scholars, Instructional Leaders, and Global Citizens and to serve the community and profession promoting and facilitating best practice in education. Offering the Early Childhood Education Certificate will prepare Head Start/Early Head Start teachers and education coordinators, as well as child care directors and teachers to become well-versed professionals who will be able to integrate best practices in early childhood education into their classrooms. As a result, the larger community will be better served because the students will be prepared for academic success with a strong early childhood foundation.

VIII. Describe any relationship to existing programs on the campus or within the university. Currently, IU Bloomington, IUPUI, IUPU Fort Wayne, and IU South Bend offer Generalist: Early Childhood (P-3) certification; however, no other campus offers a 21 hour certificate in Early Childhood Education. This certificate will complement our undergraduate Early Childhood Education minor as the students pursuing the certificate will be completing five of the same courses, but at the graduate level. They will then be adding two other early childhood courses to complete the certificate.

IX. List and indicate the resources required to implement the proposed program. Indicate sources (e.g., reallocations or any new resources such as personnel, library holdings, equipment, etc.).
The Early Childhood credential in education can be initiated with current faculty and adjuncts. The School of Education has received and reviewed the list of materials relating to Early Childhood Education in the IU East library and no new resources are being requested to initiate the program.