



Bachelor of Science Birth through Kindergarten Teacher Education

Description of Program

The Bachelor of Science (BS) degree with a major in Birth through Kindergarten (BK) Teacher Education prepares individuals to work with children from birth through five years of age with and without disabilities, including those at risk, and their families. In addition to working in public school classrooms, BK program graduates may find employment in early intervention programs, child care and education centers, residential placement centers, and other child and family settings.

The BK program is offered through the Department of Child Development and Family Relations (CDFR) in the College of Human Ecology (CHE). It is available on-campus and on-line. In both methods of delivery, licensure requirements prescribed by the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) are maintained. Currently, the online program is limited to residents of North Carolina.

Program Requirements

The BS in BK requires a minimum of 126 s.h. which consist of General Education (GE) courses (42 s.h.), BK major courses (72 s.h.), and Electives (12 s.h.). Good candidates for the online program are individuals who have completed most, preferably all, of the GE courses. The 72 s.h. of BK major courses are offered on a rotation which begins in first summer session each year. Not all courses are offered every semester.

BK major courses consist of classes in child development, special education, family relations, early childhood/elementary education, and professional studies. Several courses require practicum experiences, and the culminating experience is a full-semester internship (student teaching) in a public school classroom. Practicum experiences and internships are accomplished at host sites and supervised by university faculty.

At least one-half of the minimum number of s.h. required for the degree (63) must be taken at a four-year institution; at least one-half of the s.h. required for the major must be taken at ECU. Transfer credit from junior and/or community colleges will **not** be accepted for CDFR 2123, for any BK curriculum/methods courses, or any ECU courses for which admission to upper division is a prerequisite.

Application Procedure

To pursue the BS in BK, individuals must first be admitted to ECU. At the ECU home page, click on Future Students and find the topic Apply On-line. If you do not yet have a bachelor's degree, click on Undergraduate Admissions. If you already have a bachelor's degree and want to obtain a BK license, click on Graduate Admissions. Follow instructions for obtaining and submitting the application form, the non-refundable \$50.00 application fee, and official transcripts from all high schools, colleges, and universities attended. Admission to ECU does not guarantee admission to the BS BK program. Upon notification of acceptance to ECU, contact Debi Levine [levined@mail.ecu.edu] and let her know that you wish to pursue the BS in BK via distance education. She will assign you an adviser who will provide information about specific requirements.

Contact Information

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The BK program is accredited by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.