

Early Childhood Education (B.A.)

The Teacher Education Program is an answer to the needs and aspirations of a society in constant change. The Program is directed toward the professional formation of a teacher of excellent quality; *i.e.*, one who can contribute in an effective manner to produce the changes deemed desirable in students, knowledgeable about the problems confronting education, and capable of collaborating in the process of change to improve the quality of both the teacher's life and that of others. The Program, therefore, seeks to achieve a greater integration of its components: professional courses, major courses and general education courses.

Teacher preparation emphasizes the development of those skills and attitudes that allow for the formation of a critical, flexible and creative mind that by using educational theories as the starting point is capable of identifying and posing problems, of carrying out research to find solutions and proposing adequate answers which can be verified through experimentation.

The new vision of teacher preparation requires a program of studies that provides a great number of related experiences that enables the construction of pedagogical knowledge and content. These experiences are characterized by continuous reflection, practice in real settings, research, and collaboration. The Program studies the relevance of content, the pedagogical model and tools that permit the solution of problems inherent in the teaching and learning processes in different contexts. In this Program of study, the general education, major, and core course components will be integrated.

Graduates of the Teacher Education Program should:

1. Be committed to the professionalization of their chosen field and help dignify the teaching profession with their performance.
2. Use critical reflection as a tool in pedagogical practice.
3. Recognize and use the classroom as a laboratory of human experiences that will increase and enrich the teaching-learning endeavor.
4. Utilize research as a resource for enriching and expanding knowledge and improving pedagogical practice.
5. Perform a pedagogical practice founded on the mastery of knowledge.
6. Be a leader in promoting change and innovation.
7. Conceive of education as a human process.
8. Understand how formal and informal education contribute to the development of the humanistic and scientific culture of society.
9. Be aware of the need for collaborative work as an essential component of their pedagogical practice.
10. Conceive of the oral and written language in their vernacular and second language as essential instruments for the teaching and learning process.
11. Be aware of their ethical and legal responsibilities to take positions and to contribute to the solution of problems.
12. Make effective use of technology.
13. Have a clear vision of the diverse ways in which populations are distributed.
14. Be committed to the practice and promotion of a better quality of life.

The Cyber Study Center offers study programs for the Bachelor of Arts degree in the Early Childhood Education in Elementary Primary Level (K-3), Elementary Primary Level (4-6) and Pre-School Level. The University's B.A. in Early Childhood Education: Elementary Primary Level (K-3), Elementary Primary Level (4-6) and Pre-School Level qualifies eligible students to apply for a valid standard teaching certificate issued by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Eligibility is subject to change by the Puerto Rico Department of Education, but presently requires that students be at least 18, maintain an overall GPA and major GPA of 3.00 (if graduating on or after 2010), pass the *Pruebas de Certificación de Maestros*, and provide personal and professional documentation.

THE UNIVERSITY DOES NOT WARRANT, REPRESENT, OR GUARANTEE THAT GRADUATES WILL RECEIVE ANY TEACHING CERTIFICATE OR BE LICENSED TO TEACH. Students with a valid standard teaching certificate issued by Puerto Rico may apply for reciprocal treatment in Florida. This requires completing the Florida Bureau of Teacher Certification's CG-10 application form and submitting a processing fee, official transcripts showing all degrees and credits, copies of the teaching certificate issued in Puerto Rico, and

fingerprints. Students without a valid standard teaching certificate issued by Puerto Rico may qualify for a Temporary Certificate from Florida, but must also pass the Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE). Students wishing to teach outside their areas of specialization may also be required to take additional courses. For purposes of specialization, the Florida Bureau of Teacher Certification treats (K-3) and (4-6) as (K-6). For more information on teacher certification requirements, visit on-line the Florida Bureau of Teacher Certification website. In the event of a conflict between the terms of the website and this handbook, the website's terms will govern.

The Teacher Education Program requires completion of a variety of field placements, as well as a supervised internship. To receive credit, students interested in the teaching internship must apply for and comply with the practice location requirements and application deadlines, as well as the University's degree program requirements. Students interested in applying for an internship must contact the Executive Director of the Cyber Study Center at least one semester before the student is qualified for and would like placement.

Students who have had previous satisfactory teaching experience may apply for an exemption from the teaching internship requirement from the University; however, said exception may not be acceptable to the particular state or territory teacher certification program to which the student wants to apply. This exemption will be subject to the following conditions:

1. The student has been teaching full-time for two academic years within the last four years as verified by the principal of the school.
2. The student pays 50% of the registration cost of the courses EDUC 3015 and EDUC 4013 for the final validation of the credits.
3. The experience to be credited by the University corresponds to the requirements for the degree that the student hopes to obtain from the University.

Admission Requirements for the Teacher Education Program

All students admitted to the University who seek admission to the Teacher Education Program will be classified under the PRE-PEM until they are officially admitted to the PEM major of their interest.

When requesting admission and readmission to the Teacher Education Program, students must meet the following additional admission requirements:

1. Have a minimum general point average of 2.50 at the university level.
2. Have earned a minimum of 18 university credits in, among other courses, these courses:
 - a. EDUC 1080 (Field Experiences in the Educational Scenario I), or EDUC 2890 (Field Experiences in Educational Scenario II), with a minimum grade of "B".*
 - b. EDUC 2021 (History and Philosophy of Education) or EDUC 2022 (Society and Education) or EDUC 2031 (Developmental Psychology), with a minimum grade of "B".
 - c. GESP 1101 (Literature and Communication: Narrative and Essay) and GESP1102 (Literature and Communication: Poetry and Theater), with a minimum grade of "B".
 - d. GEEN 1101 and GEEN 1102 (English as a Second Language I and II) or GEEN 1201 and GEEN 1202 (Development of English through Reading I and II) or GEEN 2311 (Reading and Writing) and GEEN 2312 (Literature and Writing) with a minimum grade of "B".
3. Submit, in the corresponding academic department, the Application for Admission to the Teacher Education Program.
4. Students will have three (3) semesters or four (4) trimesters to complete the admission requirements. If they do not complete these requirements in the required time, they must choose another field of study.

*Students presenting official evidence of having worked under a teacher during a semester or more may apply for an exemption from taking the course EDUC 1080 – Field Experiences in Educational Scenario I.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements for the Teacher Education Program

1. To remain in the Teacher Education Program, students must finish the academic year with a minimum general grade index as indicated below:

- a. 47 credits or less: 2.50
 - b. 48-71 credits: 2.75
 - c. 72-95 credits: 2.90
 - d. 96 or more credits: 3.00
2. Student must comply with the institutional norm of credits attempted and approved.
 3. Students who do not meet the required grade point index to remain in the Program will be placed on probation for a period no greater than two academic semesters or three trimesters.
 4. Students who do not reach the required grade point index during the probationary period will be dropped from the Teacher Education Program.
 5. Students dropped from the Teacher Education Program may request admission to or change their major to another field of study.

Admission Requirements for the Course Clinical Experiences in the Educational Scenario II (EDUC 4013) or Practice Teaching

For students admitted after August 2009, the admission requirements for the Course *Clinical Experiences in the Educational Scenario II* (EDUC 4013) include the following: students must have:

1. Passed the Core Course Requirements of the Program, except EDUC 4551 and EDUC 4552.
2. Passed the Major Requirements.
3. Earned a minimum grade point average of 3.00.
4. Earned a minimum grade point average of 3.00 in the Core Course Requirements, in the Major Requirements and in the Specialization Requirements.
5. Submit the Application for Admission and have the approval of the Practice Teaching Coordinator or Supervisor.

All qualified students must also contact the Director of the Cyber Study Center at least one semester before the student desires internship placement.

Graduation Requirements of the Teacher Education Program

Every student that is a candidate for graduation from any of the majors of the Teacher Education Programs, who have been admitted or readmitted since August of 2009, must:

1. Have obtained a minimum general grade point average of 3.00.
2. Have obtained a minimum grade point average of 3.00 in the core course requirements.
3. Have obtained a minimum grade point average of 3.00 in the major and specialization.
4. Have earned a minimum grade of B in the course EDUC 4013, Clinical Experience in Educational Scenario II).

Graduation Grade Point Indexes for Students Admitted or Re-admitted to the Teacher Education Program before August of 2009

Academic Year of Graduation	General Index, in Core, Major and Specialization Courses
2009-2011	2.50
2011-2013	2.80
2013-2014 and beyond	3.00

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This program is authorized to be offered online.

TOTAL COST OF PROGRAM (Price per credit \$187.00 as of June 2018)

Tuition	\$23,562-\$23,936
Fees	\$3,200
Books	\$3,472
Supplies	<u>\$2,304</u>
Total	\$32,538-\$32,912

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

General Education Requirements	54 credits
Core Course Requirements	41 credits
Concentration Requirements	28-30 credits
Elective Courses	<u>3 credits</u>
Total	126-128

General Education Requirements - 54 credits

Fifty four (54) credits are required in General Education for this Program. In addition to GEHS 2010F, students will take GEHS 3020, 4020 and 4030 in the Historic and Social Context category. Students will take courses GEPE 4040 and GEPE 3010 or 3020 to fulfill the six credits required in the Philosophical and Esthetic Thought category. Students of this Program are exempt from taking the course GEMA 1000 from the Basic Skills in Mathematics category. Instead they will take GEMA 1001 and GEMA 1002.

Core Course Requirements - 41 credits

EDUC 1080	Field Experiences in the Educational Scenario I	1
EDUC 2021	History and Philosophy of Education	3
EDUC 2022	Society and Education	3
EDUC 2031	Developmental Psychology	3
EDUC 2032	Learning Psychology	3
EDUC 4050	Curriculum Design	2
EDUC 2060	Use of Technology in Education	2
EDUC 2870	The Exceptional Student Population	4
EDUC 2890	Field Experiences in the Educational Scenario II	2
EDUC 3013	Teaching Strategies	2
EDUC 3015	Clinical Experiences in the Educational Scenario I	2
EDUC 4011	Evaluation and Assessment	3
EDUC 4012	Classroom Research	2
EDUC 4013	Clinical Experiences in the Educational Scenario II	4
EDUC 4551	Integration of Basic Knowledge and Communication Skills	1
EDUC 4552	Integration of Professional Skills	1
HIST 3010	Historical Process of the United States of America	3

Early Childhood Education: Elementary Primary Level (K-3)

Concentration Requirements - 29 credits

EDUC 2020	Health, Nutrition and First Aid	3
EDUC 3075	Mathematics Curriculum, Teaching and Assessment	

		in the Primary Grades (K-3)	2
EDUC	3083	Social Studies Curriculum, Teaching and Assessment in the Primary Grades (K-3)	2
EDUC	3090	Children's Literature	3
EDUC	3130	Fine Arts in the Educational Process	3
EDUC	3150	The Kindergarten in the School Program	3
EDUC	3170	Parents as Educators	3
EDUC	3185	English Curriculum, Teaching and Assessment in the Primary Grades (K-3)	2
EDUC	3235	Reading and Writing in the Primary Grades	3
EDUC	3265	Natural Sciences Curriculum, Teaching and Assessment in the Primary Grades (K-3)	2
EDUC	4110	Children's Play as a Learning Process	3

Early Childhood Education: Elementary Level (4-6)

Concentration Requirements - 30 credits

EDUC	2020	Health, Nutrition and First Aid	3
EDUC	3076	Mathematics Curriculum, Teaching and Assessment in the Primary Grades (4-6)	3
EDUC	3084	Social Studies Curriculum, Teaching and Assessment in the Primary Grades (4-6)	3
EDUC	3090	Children's Literature	3
EDUC	3130	Fine Arts in the Educational Process	3
EDUC	3170	Parents as Educators	3
EDUC	3186	English Curriculum, Teaching and Assessment in the Primary Grades (4-6)	3
EDUC	3232	Language Arts Curriculum, Teaching and Assessment in the Primary Grades (4-6)	3
EDUC	3266	Natural Sciences Curriculum, Teaching and Assessment in the Primary Grades (4-6)	3
EDUC	4110	Children's Play as a Learning Process	3

Early Childhood Education: Pre-School Level

Concentration Requirements - 28 credits

EDUC	2020	Health, Nutrition and First Aid	3
EDUC	2875	Language Stimulation	3
EDUC	3003	Nature and Needs of Infants and Preschool Age Children with Developmental Deficiencies	3
EDUC	3090	Children's Literature	3
EDUC	3126	Psycho-philosophical Influences in Curriculum Models for Early Childhood Education	4
EDUC	3130	Fine Arts in the Educational Process	3
EDUC	3170	Parents as Educators	3
EDUC	3260	Organization and Administration of Childhood Services	3
EDUC	4110	Children's Play as a Learning Process	3

Elective Requirements - 3 credits

An elective course is (i) any course a student takes in any General Education, Major or Prescribed Distributive Course within the student's degree program, in addition to the courses that the student has taken to satisfy the

minimum degree program requirements in each category and/or (ii) any course in another degree program. Provided that the student must meet course prerequisites and cannot count the same course twice.