

# Early Childhood Education PreK - 3

Students who wish to pursue the undergraduate program concentrated in Early Childhood Education (PreK-3) are those who are interested in teaching general child populations, birth to grade three. The program is designed to prepare students for both the teacher licensure program and the graduate program in CFS, and successful completion of the undergraduate degree is governed by admission to both.

A major of Child and Family Studies must be chosen to pursue the Early Childhood Education license. Students in this major will complete a four year undergraduate degree before moving into their fifth year internship. Prior to admission into the program it is highly recommended that students pursue opportunities that allow them to gain experience working with young children especially in a group setting. This can be obtained in a number of ways, but some possible options include:

- Education 100
- Boys and Girls Club
- YMCA
- Big Brother Big Sister

Students in the Child and Family Studies major will gain practicum experiences in the UT Early Learning Center. Students interested in this program are encouraged to work closely with their advisor to ensure they meet the teacher education requirements.

## Admission Requirements

- Maintain a cumulative 2.75 GPA, all college work calculated
- Complete 60 credit hours, including AP, dual, & transfer credit
- Background Check- all applicants will be required to complete a fingerprint scan and background check
- Professional Attitudes, Dispositions, & Competencies - completion of online form
- Interview with Admissions Board - November & April
- ACT/SAT scores **MUST** be on file

Electronic Application -  
<https://cehhsadvising.utk.edu/licensure/>

For Fall semester apply between August 1 - September 30  
For Spring semester apply between January 1 - February 28

## Getting InVOLved

These programs are a great way to get involved as well as provide excellent field experience. Feel free to visit the website or contact the program coordinators.

- **Early Childhood Education Club**  
ut\_ece\_club@live.utk.edu
- **Pond Gap Service Club**  
Robert Kronick, rkronick@utk.edu
- **Black Educators of Tomorrow**  
Demetria Mells, dmells@utk.edu
- **Student Tennessee Education Association**  
Laura Stetler-Brown, lstetler@utk.edu

**VOLink:** [utk.campuslabs.com/engage](http://utk.campuslabs.com/engage)

For appointments: <https://cehhsadvising.utk.edu/academic-advising/>

332, Bailey Education Complex

865-974-8194



# The Professional Year

The following conditions must be met to progress to the professional year:

- B.S. degree conferred
- Passing score on PRAXIS exam for primary content area
- Minimum 2.80 GPA in professional education
- All courses must be completed with a C or better
- Minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA, all college work calculated
- Minimum 2.5 GPA in major

## Fall Only Courses

### **Math Education 530 (3 hrs)**

Teaching Math in the Elementary School

### **CFS 574 (2 hrs)**

Analysis of Teaching for Professional Development

### **CFS 575 (4 hrs)**

Professional Internship in Teaching

### **CFS 569 (3 hrs)**

Action Research in Early Childhood Education

## Spring Only Courses

### **CFS 575 (8 hrs)**

Professional Internship in Teaching

### **CFS 591 (4 hrs)**

Clinical Studies

**Total: 24 hours**

**Teacher Licensure is granted when the following have been completed:**

- The professional year

**To complete the Master's degree:**

- The professional year (24 hours)
- Additional elective courses (12 credits); consult with faculty advisor for options. Credits may be completed before or after the conclusion of the professional year.