

ECE 4310: A Conceptual Framework for the Montessori System of Education

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: Admission to Teacher Education program

Insights into the nature of child development reveal that respect for the child's inner teacher serves as the integrating principle for the effective education of young children. Students will discover that the sensitive periods are the most powerful times for learning. Students will learn the importance of the prepared environment as the third essential element in the teaching learning equation. This environment supports individual and collaborative learning and encourages positive social interaction. Students will learn that the Prepared Environment encourages active engagement in learning, the emergence and development of concentration and intrinsic motivation. This Conceptual Framework undergirds the research based Montessori System of Education.

ECE 4315: Sensorial Development

3 Credit Hours

Corequisite: ECE 4305, ECE 4310, ECE 4320.

Candidates will learn to use a rich array of developmentally appropriate materials that address each of the child's senses in ways that establish foundations for cognitive growth. Work with these materials promotes the development that children need for the successful mastery of writing, reading, and mathematics skills. Candidates learn to give sensorial presentations with Geometry, Botany, Geography, and Peace Education Curriculum materials and also learn to help children develop listening, sight singing and musical notation skills.

ECE 4320: Observation and Supervised Internship – Early Childhood I

6 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: Admission to program

Corequisite: ECE 4305, ECE 4310, ECE 4315.

Candidates will learn to develop, plan, and implement strategies for the care and education of 3 to 5 year old children. Candidates will teach under the supervision of childcare professionals and university faculty. Candidates will develop skills in the presentation of developmentally appropriate practical life and sensorial materials to 3 to 5 year old children. Verification of professional liability insurance is required prior to placement in the teaching experience.