

Child Development and Family Relations

Bachelor of Science Degree

Contact

Associate Dean for Academic Services
5766 Shibles Hall, Room 144
Orono, ME 04469-5766
207-581-2485
fax: 207-581-2423
umaine.edu/edhd

Admission Requirements

(In years as established by the college)

A high school diploma with the following specific courses:

- 4 English
- 2 Algebra I & II
- 1 Geometry
- 2 Lab Science (including biology)
- 2 History/Social Studies
- 2 Foreign Language
(same language or two years of American Sign Language)
- Academic electives (to equal at least 17 credits)

To ensure current mathematical skills, students should take a mathematics course during their senior year of high school.

Did You Know?

- The child development and family relations' early childhood education option at the University of Maine prepares students to work with a wide range of young children and their families.
- Skills and background for working with children with disabilities is integrated into all coursework.
- Students have one-on-one academic and career advising with core faculty starting as soon as they enter the program. Advisers and students meet regularly to discuss course choices and career preparation. In addition, advisers supervise students throughout the student teaching process.

College of Education and Human Development

Program Description

This program provides training for professional work with children and families. Students in child development and family relations study the growth and development of individuals in the contexts of schools, communities and families. Students work with a dynamic, student-oriented faculty to prepare for careers in early childhood, adolescent development, adult development and aging, and marriage and family relationships. They select from a variety of courses focused on life-span development and family relationships.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of small, personal classes and one-on-one academic and career advising offered by core faculty. The two tracks within the Child Development and Family Relations Program are: K-3 teaching certification, and professional preparation to work with children and families in community settings.

Students apply concepts and theory in an integrated practicum or field experience in schools and communities, which start in the second year of study. In the Katherine Miles Durst Child Development Learning Center, UMaine's pre-K and nursery lab school serving ages 3-5, students learn the developmental approach to learning. Internships include placements in community social service agencies, childcare and early education centers, public pre-K programs and public schools. Community outreach includes parent workshops, service opportunities and advocacy meetings.

Students develop research skills through internships with faculty who have active scholarship and leadership responsibilities in state, national and international enterprises. Research opportunities are in such areas as social development studies, best-practice/curriculum studies, and nature playground development and studies.

Specialized Information

Student teaching requirements for students in the early childhood education option: a GPA of 2.5 or better; a C- or better in all required education courses; no incompletes in any required education course; passing grade on Praxis I for Teacher Candidacy and Praxis II prior to the student teaching semester; proof of fingerprinting and background check authorization by the Maine Department of Education.

All students admitted to the program in the early childhood education option are required to own a laptop and specific software. Additional information about the college's technology requirement is online (umaine.edu/edhd/laptops-in-education).

Comments from Alumni and Students

"I loved all the teachers I had and all the classes I took in CHF."

"I think this program offers a lot of great courses. The information in all of those courses was very useful."

"It was a great experience. Great teachers and mentors."

Required Courses

Child Development and Family Relations option:

CHF 200 Family Interaction
CHF 201 Introduction to Child Development
CHF 423 Professional Seminar in Child Development and Family Relations
CHF 496 Field Experience in Human Development and Family Studies
CHF elective courses for 21 credits

Early Childhood Education option:

CHF 200 Family Interaction
CHF 201 Introduction to Child Development
CHF 203 Practicum in Early Childhood Programs
CHF 303 Infant and Toddler Care and Development
CHF 321 Curriculum and Methods for Teaching Young Children Science
CHF 322 Curriculum and Methods for Teaching Social Studies

CHF 329 Curriculum and Methods for Teaching Young Children Math
CHF 331/EDB 221 Cognitive Development/Educational Psychology
EDB 202 Education in a Multicultural Society
EDT 400 Computers in Education
CHF 304 Practicum in Early Childhood Education K-3
EDS 320 Educational Assessment
ERL 317 Children's Literature
ERL 319 Teaching Reading and Language Arts in Preschool to Grade 3
SED 402 Adapting Instruction for Students with Disabilities
CHF 421 Student Teaching in Early Childhood
CHF 424 Professional Seminar for Early Childhood Specialists
CHF 450 (For those seeking the 081 birth-5 endorsement) Early Childhood Special Education - Inclusion in the Early Childhood Classroom

Associated Honor Societies and Student Organizations

Students are encouraged to apply for Katherine Miles Durst scholarships and Project Opportunity (teaching English as a second language) scholarships as juniors or seniors.

Special recognition of students in the program includes the Presidential Scholar Award for students earning a 4.0 semester GPA and membership in Kappa Delta Pi honor society.

Students also are encouraged to join the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the Association for Childhood International, Zero-to-Three, EChO — UMaine's early childhood student organization, and SEAM — UMaine's public school educators student organization.

Career and Graduate Opportunities

Public school teacher (K-3), public or private pre-K teacher, childcare or Head Start teacher, social service agency work.

UMaine Graduate Programs

Master of Science in Human Development

About UMaine

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls 12,000 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. Students are offered 88 bachelor's degree programs, 64 master's degree programs, 25 doctoral programs and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, go online (umaine.edu). Equal opportunity information also is available online (umaine.edu/eo).

How do I apply?

Visit go.umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.



Academic Programs 2011-12

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online (factsheets.umaine.edu). This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.

