FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST
Undergraduate Programs

UUPC Approval 2-23-26
UFS Approval _____
Banner _____
Catalog _____

Department Joint Degree- Department of Curriculum and Instruction; Department of Special Education

College Education

Program Name
Bachelor of Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.)

☐ **New Program***

☑ **Change Program***

Effective Date
(TERM & YEAR)
Fall 2026

Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment.

In response to market forces (i.e., updated early childhood preparation standards, advances in research and evidence-based practices, and current trends in the field), the trend toward online education, informed by student preference, the decision to develop the B.E.C.E. program as a fully online degree is grounded in four primary considerations: (1) expanding the reach of the program to serve a broader population of students; (2) increasing flexibility and access for students who require adaptable learning options due to professional, family, or geographic constraints; (3) enhancing learning experiences through the intentional use of digital tools and instructional technologies aligned with evidence-based practices in early childhood and early childhood special education; and (4) promoting lifelong learning by offering convenient, engaging, and high-quality educational experiences that support continued professional growth.

With the proposed changes, the B.E.C.E degree will be offered fully online and updated as follows:

* B.E.C.E. Core Courses: Increased from 21 to 30 credits with updated and new courses
* Updated Alignment with FAU Academic Learning Compact (ALC) and Critical Assignments
* B.E.C.E. Elective Courses: Revised elective course options and reduced credit to 18 (six courses)
* Infused Undergraduate Research and students ' ability to earn the FAU Research Certificate.

See additional details on the attached.

*All new programs and changes to existing programs must be accompanied by a catalog entry showing the new or proposed changes.

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone
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Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation

Approved by	***Date***
Department Chair Joseph Brojomohun-Jagnon / Michelle Vaughan-McGovern	1/28/26
College Curriculum Chair	1/29/26
College Dean	
UUPC Chair Korey Sorge	2-23-26
Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Meeroff	2-23-26
UFS President	
Provost	

Email this form and attachments to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

Bachelor of Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) Degree Program Changes

Rationale. The Departments of Curriculum and Instruction (DCI) and Special Education (DSE) jointly offer the Bachelor of Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) degree program. The B.E.C.E. program prepares students to become high-quality teachers and related professionals in childcare and children's services, serving young children from birth through age eight. A defining feature of the program is its intentional integration of early childhood education and early childhood special education, equipping graduates to effectively support the learning and developmental needs of young children with and without disabilities or developmental delays. At its inception, the degree experienced rapid enrollment growth, then plateaued, and is now in decline.

In response to market forces (i.e., updated early childhood preparation standards, advances in research and evidence-based practices, and current trends in the field), the trend toward online education, informed by student preference, the decision to develop the B.E.C.E. program as a fully online degree is grounded in four primary considerations: (1) expanding the reach of the program to serve a broader population of students; (2) increasing flexibility and access for students who require adaptable learning options due to professional, family, or geographic constraints; (3) enhancing learning experiences through the intentional use of digital tools and instructional technologies aligned with evidence-based practices in early childhood and early childhood special education; and (4) promoting lifelong learning by offering convenient, engaging, and high-quality educational experiences that support continued professional growth.

The transition to an online format also provides both departments with the opportunity to critically examine program structure, content, and alignment with current evidence-based practices, leading to the proposed programmatic enhancements outlined below.

Currently, the degree is comprised of:

- FAU Reading and COE College of Education Core: Four Courses (12 credits)
- B.E.C.E. Core: Seven Courses(21 credits)
- Open Electives: Five Courses (15 credits)
- Program Electives: Four Courses (12 credits)

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction and the Department of Special Education propose changes to the degree program as follows:

- The B.E.C.E degree will be offered fully online
- B.E.C.E. Core Courses: Increased from 21 to 30 credits with updated and new courses
- Updated Alignment with FAU Academic Learning Compact (ALC) and Critical Assignments

Bachelor of Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) Degree Program Changes

January 2026

- B.E.C.E. Elective Courses: Revised elective course options and reduced credit to 18 (six courses)
- Infuse Undergraduate Research and students' ability to earn the FAU Research Certificate.

B.E.C.E. Core Coursework Changes. See Appendix A.

- *Create program standards (PLOs)*- In response to market forces (i.e., updated early childhood preparation standards, advances in research and evidence-based practices, and current trends in the field); these are evident in the new and revised coursework.
- *Update existing courses*- Update course objectives (CLOs), student learning outcomes (SLOs), and, where applicable, course title, description, and assignment changes in existing courses.
- *Add two new courses and one existing course to the degree program*- In response to market forces, add two new courses and one existing course to the B.E.C.E. Core.

FAU Academic Learning Compact (ALC) alignment.

- We will track students' achievement of the ALCs through critical assignments in specific courses. See table in Appendix B.

Revise Elective Options.

- To better match student outcomes and career options, the elective options (i.e., Program and Open Electives) are combined, and the number of electives is reduced from 27 to 18 credits (six courses). These courses will be selected in consultation with the students' B.E.C.E. advisor from a list of approved courses. See Appendix C).

Infuse Undergraduate Research.

- Specific courses within the major were chosen as exposure and skill building, added to the current research-intensive and directed independent research options, will enable students pursuing the B.E.C.E. degree to earn the Research certificate within the major. See Appendix D.

Appendices

- Appendix A- Summary of B.E.C.E. Core Coursework Changes
- Appendix B-FAU Academic Learning Compact (ALC) alignment with B.E.C.E. Coursework and Critical Assignments
- Appendix C- B.E.C.E. Electives
- Appendix D-Undergraduate Research Infusion
- Appendix E- Catalog Changes

Appendix A. Summary of B.E.C.E. Core Coursework Changes (Syllabi are attached).

Course	Type of Change	Nature of Change
Department of Curriculum and Instruction Courses		
EEC 3014 Media and Technology in Early Childhood Education: Foundations and Practice	New course	New course, OURI Skill-Building
EEC 3214 Designing and Implementing a Blended Curriculum	Course change	Title, description, SLOs, CLOs, ALC alignment with PLOs, course text, assignment changes, OURI Exposure
EEC 4303 Creative Arts Young Child	Course change	Revised course description, removed field experience requirement, SLOs, CLOs, ALC alignment with PLOs, OURI Skill-Building
EEC 4313 Blended Early Childhood Teaching Methods	Course change	Change in credits from 4 to 3, course title, description, text, SLOs, CLOs, ALC alignment with PLOs, revised content and assignments, and redistributed assignment weights
EEC 4623 Foundations and Practical Applications of Play-Based Learning for Young Children	New course	New course, OURI Skill-Building
Department of Special Education Courses		
EEX 3201 Typical/Atypical Child Development	Course change	Title, description, SLOs, CLOs, ALC alignment with PLOs, OURI Exposure
EEX 3226 Assessing Young Children with and without Disabilities	Course change	Title, description, SLOs, CLOs, ALC alignment with PLOs, OURI Skill-Building, course text, assignment changes
EEX 3603 Positive Behavior Supports in Inclusive Early Childhood Settings	Course Change	Course description, SLOs, CLOs, ALC alignment with PLOs, program prerequisite, assignment changes.
EEX 3754 Building Family, Community, and School Partnerships	Course change	Change in credits from 2 to 3, SLOs, CLOs, ALC alignment with PLOs, OURI Exposure, additional content and assignments, redistributed assignment weights.
EEX 4112 Language Development and Intervention in Young Children	Course change	Course Description, SLOs, CLOs, ALC alignment with PLOs, OURI Skill-Building.

Appendix B. FAU Academic Learning Compact (ALC) alignment with B.E.C.E. Coursework and Critical Assignments

The early childhood core courses of the Bachelor's in Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) embed the Florida Atlantic University Academic Learning Compact (ALCs). Academic Learning Compacts identify (a) content/discipline knowledge and skills, (b) communication skills, and (c) critical thinking skills that students in that program are expected to demonstrate prior to graduation, and the methods by which students will be assessed on these skills. We will track students' accomplishment of the ALCs through the use of critical assignments in the courses as follows:

Fall 1	Spring 1	Summer 1
▪ **EEC 3214** Designing and Implementing a Blended Curriculum ○ ALC: Content knowledge, critical thinking, communication ▪ Critical Assignment: *Blended Learning Experience Design & Evaluation* ▪ **EEX 3201** Typical/Atypical Child Development	▪ **EEX 3226** Assessment of all Young Children ○ ALC: Content knowledge, critical thinking, communication ○ Critical Assignment: *Comprehensive Assessment System Project* ▪ **EEX 3754** Building Family, Community and School Partnerships ○ ALC: Content knowledge, critical thinking, communication ▪ Critical Assignment: *Home Visit Report*	▪ **EEX 3603** Positive Behavior Supports in Inclusive Early Childhood Settings ○ ALC: Content knowledge, critical thinking, communication ▪ Critical Assignment: *Classroom Management Plan* ▪ **EEX 4112** Language Development and Intervention in Young Children
Fall 2	**Spring 2**	
▪ **EEC 4313** Blended Early Childhood Methods ○ ALC: Content knowledge, critical thinking, communication ▪ Critical Assignment: *Activities, strategies, and on-going plan* **EEC 4623** Foundations and Practical Applications of Play-Based Learning for Young Children	▪ **EEC 3014** Media and Technology in Early Childhood Education: Foundations and Practice ▪ **EEC 4303** Creative Arts for Young Children ○ ALC: Content knowledge, critical thinking, communication ▪ Critical Assignment: *Case Study*	

Appendix C. B.E.C.E. Electives

Combined the Open and Program elective categories, reducing the number of electives to 18 credits (six courses). These courses will be selected in consultation with the students' B.E.C.E. advisor from the list of approved courses below.

College of Arts and Letters

COM 4703 Storytelling

SYO 3100 Family and Society

College of Business

ENT 4024 Entrepreneurship

MAN 3025 Inst. Management and Organization Behavior

College of Education

ARE 4313 Elementary School Art

EDF 3210 Applied Learning Theory

EDF 3912 RI Multidisciplinary Research Methods 2

EDF 3913 RI Multidisciplinary Research Methods 3

EDF 4916 DIR Ind Res Ed Leadership and Research Methodology

EDG 4419 Building Classroom Discipline and Management.

EDG 4916 Directed Independent Research in Curriculum and Instruction

EDG 4916 Directed Independent Research in Curriculum and Instruction

EEC 4020 Foundations of ECEE (Part of the EC Env. Ed. Certificate)

EEC 4404 Community Engagement in ECEE (Part of the EC Env. Ed. Certificate)

EEX 2091 Disability and Society

EEX 2091 Disability and Society: RI

EEX 4070 Inclusive Education for General Education

EEX 4763 Special Education Technology

EEX 4916 Directed Independent Research in Special Education

EEX 4050 Overview of Individuals served in VE classrooms (Only offered in Fall)

EME 4312 Education Technology

TSL 4081 TESOL Issues and Practices (Prereq: TSL 4080)

College of Science

DEP 3053 Psychology of Human Development (Prereq: Psy 1012)

EXP 3505 Cognition

Appendix D. Undergraduate Research Infusion

The B.E.C.E. program updates and transition to an online format also provides both departments with the opportunity to critically examine program structure, content, and alignment with current evidence-based practices, leading to several proposed programmatic enhancements. One said enhancement is to provide students completing the B.E.C.E. degree the opportunity to earn the Florida Atlantic Undergraduate Research Certificate as they complete their degree requirements.

Specific courses within the major were revised to meet criteria for research exposure or skill-building designation. This, in addition to the current research-intensive and directed independent research options, will enable students pursuing the B.E.C.E. degree to earn the Research certificate within the major.

- **Proposed Research Exposure Courses**
  - EEC 3214 Designing and Implementing a Blended Curriculum
  - EEC 3014 Media and Technology in Early Childhood Education: Foundations and Practice

- **Proposed Research Skill Building Courses**
  - EEX 3201 Typical/Atypical Child Development
  - EEX 3226 Assessment of all Young Children
  - EEC 4623 Foundations and Practical Applications of Play-Based Learning for Young Children

- **Existing Research-Intensive Courses.**
  - EDF 3912 RI Multidisciplinary Research Methods 2
  - EDF 3913 RI Multidisciplinary Research Methods 3
  - EEX 2091 RI Disability and Society

- **Existing Directed Independent Research.**
  - EDF 4916 DIR Ind Res Ed Leadership and Research Methodology
  - EDG 4916 DIR in Curriculum and Instruction
  - EEX 4916 DIR in Special Education

Catalog changes begin below:

Bachelor of Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) Degree Program Changes
January 2026

Appendix E Catalog Changes

FAU Catalog Changes based on this entry: https://www.fau.edu/registrar/university-catalog/catalog/education/

Early Care and Education
Bachelor of Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.)

(Minimum of 120 credits required)

The Bachelor of Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) is a joint program offered by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and the Department of Special Education. The B.E.C.E. is designed to prepare teachers and related personnel for employment in the fields of child care and children's services for young children from birth to age eight. The program is offered fully online. Students completing the B.E.C.E degree have the option to earn the Florida Atlantic Undergraduate Research Certificate as they complete their degree requirements.

Admissions Requirements
Students enrolling in the B.E.C.E. may exhibit a range of prior levels of preparation. Generally, all students are required to have completed 60 credits of lower-division coursework. This could include the A.A. or A.S. degree in Early Childhood Education, determined by articulation agreements with community or state colleges.

All students seeking admission to the B.E.C.E. must meet the University's admission requirements. In addition, each applicant must:

1. Have a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale on lower-division undergraduate coursework for a total of 60 credits;
2. Be programmed for admission to the B.E.C.E. by a faculty advisor from the Department of Special Education or the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

Prerequisite Coursework for Transfer Students
Students transferring to Florida Atlantic University must complete both lower-division requirements (including the requirements of the General Education Curriculum) and requirements for the college and major. Lower-division requirements may be completed through the A.A. degree from any Florida public college, university or community college or through equivalent coursework at another regionally accredited institution. Before transferring and to ensure timely progress toward the baccalaureate degree, students must also complete the prerequisite courses for their major as outlined in the *Transition Guides.*

Bachelor of Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) Degree Program Changes
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All courses not approved by the Florida Statewide Course Numbering System that will be used to satisfy requirements will be evaluated individually on the basis of content and will require a catalog course description and a copy of the syllabus for assessment.

Course Requirements
As a joint program of two FAU departments, the B.E.C.E. is made up of coursework, field experiences, and advisement from both departments. In addition, a careful review of student transcripts will guide advising decisions.

All students must complete General Education requirements (36 credits), either from an associate's degree program or as non-restricted elective courses in the B.E.C.E. General Education courses include six credits in each of the following areas: Communication, Humanities, Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Sciences and Additional Enrichment. ~~Math, English Composition, Science, Social Studies, Humanities and General Education (electives).~~ College-Level Communication and Computation Skills formerly Gordon Rule/WAC courses, Math and English composition, are included in the General Education Requirements. If foreign language courses have not been completed previously, they must be taken as part of the non-restricted electives.

All students are required to take ten Early Childhood Core courses (30 credits), four Reading and College of Education Core Courses (12 credits), and in consultation with your program advisor, select six upper division B.E.C.E. Electives (18 credits). A list of recommended electives will be provided for all advisors and students.

Sequence of Course Requirements
Required Early Childhood core courses are offered in a prescribed sequence with specific prerequisites beginning in each fall semester. The sequence of courses requires a minimum of four semesters, including at least one summer term. Students should be programmed as soon as possible to receive appropriate advising.

A summary of the 120-credit program follows:

Transfer Credits – 60 credits
Determined through Articulation Agreements with community or state colleges. Early Childhood and General Education Courses can transfer as a 60-credit block for students having completed A.A. or A.S. degrees in Early Childhood. Students transferring the A.S. degree may need additional coursework to satisfy the FAU lower-division General Education core.

FAU Early Childhood Core Courses – ~~21~~ 30 credits

Bachelor of Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) Degree Program Changes

January 2026

Course Title	Course Number	Credits
Typical/Atypical Child Development~~, Birth – Age 8~~	EEX 3201	3
~~Assessment of All Young Children~~ Assessing Young Children with and without Disabilities	EEX 3226	3
Designing and Implementing a Blended Curriculum~~: Birth to Age Eight~~	EEC 3214	3
Language Development and Intervention in Young Children	EEX 4112	3
Building Family, Community, and School Partnerships	EEX 3754	~~2~~ 3
Positive Behavior Supports in Inclusive Early Childhood Settings	EEX 3606~~3~~	3
Blended Early Childhood Teaching Methods~~: Birth – 5~~	EEC 4313	~~4~~ 3
Media and Technology in Early Childhood Education: Foundations and Practice	EEC 3014	3
Foundations and Practical Applications of Play-Based Learning for Young Children	EEC 4623	3
Creative Arts Young Child	EEC 4303	3

FAU Reading and ~~COE~~ College of Education Courses – 12 credits

Course Title	Course Number	Credits
Language Arts and Literature, Birth – Grade 8	LAE 4353	3
Reading Development I: Birth – Grade 3	RED 4308	3
Educational Measurement and Evaluation	EDF 3430	3
Introduction to Theories and Practices of TESOL	TSL 4080	3

Bachelor of Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) Degree Program Changes

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B.E.C.E. ~~Open~~ Electives - ~~15~~ 18 credits

These courses should be selected in consultation with B.E.C.E. advisor.

~~B.E.C.E. Program Electives - 12 credits~~

~~These courses should be selected in consultation with B.E.C.E. advisor.~~

Graduation Requirements

B.E.C.E. graduation requirements are consistent with FAU and College of Education standards. Each candidate for graduation must:

1. Earn a minimum of 120 credits in academic courses acceptable toward the degree;
2. Earn a minimum of 45 of these credits at the upper division;
3. Earn the last 30 upper-division credits in residence at FAU;
4. Earn at least 75 percent of all upper-division credits from FAU in the departments of Curriculum and Instruction and/or Special Education, or other departments in the College of Education;
5. Satisfy College-Level Communication and Computation Skills formerly Gordon Rule/Writing Across Curriculum requirements;
6. Fulfill all admissions, program and course requirements;
7. Earn a "C" or better in all Education courses and a "C-" or better in all other non-Education courses, maintaining a 2.5 GPA upon graduation;
8. Fulfill the FAU foreign language requirement;
9. Submit a completed Application for Graduation form.

Accreditation Standards for the B.E.C.E.

The B.E.C.E. represents the highest professional standards promulgated by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Council for Exceptional Children Division of Early Childhood.

All course syllabi include standards delineated by the Florida Department of Education's Educator Accomplished Practices and the ~~FAU College of Education's corresponding Behavioral Indicators~~ Florida Atlantic Academic Learning Compact. Students must demonstrate competence on all critical assignments embedded in Early Childhood Core Courses and FAU Reading and College of Education Courses ~~Reading~~ Courses.

Catalog Changes Clean Version

FAU Catalog Changes based on this entry: https://www.fau.edu/registrar/university-catalog/catalog/education/

Early Care and Education Bachelor of Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.)

(Minimum of 120 credits required)

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Admissions Requirements Students enrolling in the B.E.C.E. may exhibit a range of prior levels of preparation. Generally, all students are required to have completed 60 credits of lower-division coursework. This could include the A.A. or A.S. degree in Early Childhood Education, determined by articulation agreements with community or state colleges. All students seeking admission to the B.E.C.E. must meet the University's admission requirements. In addition, each applicant must:

1. Have a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale on lower-division undergraduate coursework for a total of 60 credits;

2. Be programmed for admission to the B.E.C.E. by a faculty advisor from the Department of Special Education or the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

Prerequisite Coursework for Transfer Students Students transferring to Florida Atlantic University must complete both lower-division requirements (including the requirements of the General Education Curriculum) and requirements for the college and major. Lower-division requirements may be completed through the A.A. degree from any Florida public college, university or community college or through equivalent coursework at another regionally accredited institution. Before transferring and to ensure timely progress toward the baccalaureate degree, students must also complete the prerequisite courses for their major as outlined in the *Transition Guides*.

All courses not approved by the Florida Statewide Course Numbering System that will be used to satisfy requirements will be evaluated individually on the basis of content and will require a catalog course description and a copy of the syllabus for assessment.

Course Requirements As a joint program of two FAU departments, the B.E.C.E. is made up of coursework, field experiences, and advisement from both departments. In addition, a careful review of student transcripts will guide advising decisions. All students must complete General Education

requirements (36 credits), either from an associate‘s degree program or as non-restricted elective courses in the B.E.C.E. General Education courses include six credits in each of the following areas: Communication, Humanities, Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Sciences and Additional Enrichment. College-Level Communication and Computation Skills formerly Gordon Rule/WAC courses, Math and English composition, are included in the General Education Requirements. If foreign language courses have not been completed previously, they must be taken as part of the non-restricted electives.

All students are required to take ten Early Childhood Core courses (30 credits), four Reading and College of Education Core Courses (12 credits), and in consultation with your program advisor, select six upper division B.E.C.E. Electives (18 credits). A list of recommended electives will be provided for all advisors and students.

Sequence of Course Requirements Required Early Childhood core courses are offered in a prescribed sequence with specific prerequisites beginning in each fall semester. The sequence of courses requires a minimum of four semesters, including at least one summer term. Students should be programmed as soon as possible to receive appropriate advising.

A summary of the 120-credit program follows:

Transfer Credits – 60 credits Determined through Articulation Agreements with community or state colleges. Early Childhood and General Education Courses can transfer as a 60-credit block for students having completed A.A. or A.S. degrees in Early Childhood. Students transferring the A.S. degree may need additional coursework to satisfy the FAU lower-division General Education core.

FAU Early Childhood Core Courses – 30 credits

Course Title	**Course Number**	**Credits**
Typical/Atypical Child Development	EEX 3201	3
Assessing Young Children with and without Disabilities	EEX 3226	3
Designing and Implementing a Blended Curriculum	EEC 3214	3
Language Development and Intervention in Young Children	EEX 4112	3
Building Family, Community, and School Partnerships	EEX 3754	3

Positive Behavior Supports in Inclusive Early Childhood Settings	EEX 3603	3
Blended Early Childhood Teaching Methods	EEC 4313	3
Media and Technology in Early Childhood Education: Foundations and Practice	EEC 3014	3
Foundations and Practical Applications of Play-Based Learning for Young Children	EEC 4623	3
Creative Arts Young Child	EEC 4303	3

FAU Reading and College of Education Courses – 12 credits **Course Title**	**Course Number**	**Credits**
Language Arts and Literature, Birth – Grade 8	LAE 4353	3
Reading Development I: Birth – Grade 3	RED 4308	3
Educational Measurement and Evaluation	EDF 3430	3
Introduction to Theories and Practices of TESOL	TSL 4080	3

B.E.C.E. Electives - 18 credits
These courses should be selected in consultation with B.E.C.E. advisor.

Graduation Requirements B.E.C.E. graduation requirements are consistent with FAU and College of Education standards. Each candidate for graduation must:

1. Earn a minimum of 120 credits in academic courses acceptable toward the degree;

2. Earn a minimum of 45 of these credits at the upper division;

3. Earn the last 30 upper-division credits in residence at FAU;

4. Earn at least 75 percent of all upper-division credits from FAU in the departments of Curriculum and Instruction and/or Special Education, or other departments in the College of Education;

5. Satisfy College-Level Communication and Computation Skills formerly Gordon Rule/Writing Across Curriculum requirements;

6. Fulfill all admissions, program and course requirements;

7. Earn a "C" or better in all Education courses and a "C-" or better in all other non-Education courses, maintaining a 2.5 GPA upon graduation;

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Accreditation Standards for the B.E.C.E. The B.E.C.E. represents the highest professional standards promulgated by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Council for Exceptional Children Division of Early Childhood.

All course syllabi include standards delineated by the Florida Department of Education's Educator Accomplished Practices and the Florida Atlantic Academic Learning Compact. Students must demonstrate competence on all critical assignments embedded in Early Childhood Core Courses and FAU Reading and College of Education Courses Courses.