FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST
Undergraduate Programs

UUPC Approval 9-14-2026
UFS Approval _____
Banner _____
Catalog _____

Department Department of Curriculum and Instruction (DCI)

College Education

Program Name

BECE to M.Ed. (Curriculum and Instruction, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration) 4+1 Degree Program

☑ **New Program***

☐ **Change Program***

Effective Date *(TERM & YEAR)*

Spring 2027

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

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction (DCI) proposes a Bachelor in Early Care and Education (BECE) to Master's (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration 4+1 degree that allows students to earn both a bachelor's and a master's degree in 5 years by completing graduate-level courses during their undergraduate studies. Including lower division, bachelor's, and master's requirements, this degree program totals 144 credit hours

This 4+1 pathway is built upon the jointly offered Bachelor of Early Care and Education (BECE) program between the Departments of Curriculum & Instruction and Special Education. The program leads to a distinct Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction (Early Childhood Concentration), reflecting advanced disciplinary preparation built upon a shared undergraduate foundation.

The following graduate courses will be taken in place of undergraduate courses for those students enrolled in this program:
- EDG 6224 U.S. Curricular Trends & Issues (Taken instead of an elective)
- EEC 6711 Creative Arts for Young Children (Taken instead of EEC 4303)
- EEX 5015 Survey and Assessment of Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education (Taken instead of EEX 3226)
- EEX 5245 Methods in Early Childhood Special Education (Taken instead of EEC 4313)

See additional explanation 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 Michelle Vaughan-McGovern	4/22/2026
College Curriculum Chair	4/27/2026
College Dean Charles Dukes	4/28/2026
UUPC Chair Korey Sorge	9-14-2026
Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Moeroff	9-14-2026
UFS President	
Provost	

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

Bachelor in Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) to Master's (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration 4+ 1 Degree Proposal

Last Updated: September 14, 2026

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction (DCI) proposes a Bachelor in Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) to Master's (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration 4+1 degree that allows students to earn both a bachelor's and a master's degree in 5 years by completing graduate-level courses during their undergraduate studies.

The Bachelor in Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) serves as the undergraduate foundation for the proposed 4+1 degree and is jointly offered by the Department of Special Education and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. The Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration, which comprises the graduate component of the proposed 4+1 degree, is offered by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. This allows students to complete both degrees within five years. Including lower division, bachelor's, and master's requirements, this degree program totals 144 credit hours.

Students earning a Bachelor's degree in Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) are prepared to be high-quality teachers and related personnel for employment in childcare and children's services, working with young children from birth to age eight. The main feature of this degree is that it blends early childhood and early childhood special education, preparing personnel to meet the needs of young children with and without disabilities or delays. Students earning the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration explore issues of curriculum, instruction, and assessment that affect educators at every level of schooling within local and global educational organizations. The M.Ed. degree is specifically designed for those who want a balance of subject matter knowledge and pedagogical expertise that will enable them to teach at any level of education.

Combining these degrees with this streamlined 4+1 accelerated degree program enables students to enter the field of early care and education at an advanced level, equipped with both introductory and advanced-level content and pedagogical knowledge and expertise, and become teachers, curriculum specialists, program directors, and leaders within the fields of early care and education.

Peer Benchmarking. FAU would join its SUS peers, the University of North Florida (UNF) and Florida State (FSU), in offering accelerated bachelor's to master's degree programs. UNF's programs range from Music Education (BME) and Music Education Pedagogy (MM) to Sport Management (BS) and Educational Leadership - Athletic Administration (MED). FSU also offers accelerated pathways in several areas (i.e., Elementary Education, English Education, Social Science Education, and Special Education). This proposed B.E.C.E. to MEd in Curriculum and Instruction is focused on early care and education and curriculum and instruction; thus, it is uniquely different from the offerings of its peers.

Strategic enrollment growth and financial efficiency. This proposed 4+1 degree would add to the growing list of combined bachelor's-to-master's programs at FAU, which allow students to take graduate courses during their undergraduate studies. These students are poised to earn a bachelor's degree within the desired four years and a master's degree in only one additional year. This would appeal to students seeking an accelerated path within higher education, those pursuing advanced qualifications,

and professionals in the field of early care and education who have completed their lower division requirements, and/or currently hold an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree. It benefits the departments by strengthening the numbers and caliber of students pursuing and completing the bachelor's and master's degrees.

Enhanced Student Experience and Institutional Outcomes. Structured advising, cohort continuity, and early exposure to graduate-level pedagogy build a stronger professional identity and preparation. The SUS performance-based funding model values graduation rates, time-to-degree, and post-graduation outcomes. This 4+1 degree program positions the College of Education to positively impact these institutional metrics for FAU.

Rationale for Shared Courses. The B.E.C.E. and the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction currently offer courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in the areas of expertise and content related to early childhood/early childhood special education. The shared courses identified either complete the B.E.C.E., College, or Curriculum and Instruction core areas of both degrees.

Program admission criteria. All students seeking admission into this 4+1 degree program must meet the College of Education and the undergraduate B.E.C.E. program admission requirements. Additionally, these applicants must also have:

- Attained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in lower division coursework.
- Two letters of recommendation from a professor/course instructor addressing the student's intellectual, academic, organizational, and personal abilities. For example, the letter may address the student's advanced critical thinking and research skills, academic writing and communication, time management and self-direction, intellectual curiosity, and persistence.
- Personal statement from the applicant delineating why they are applying, and why they are an excellent fit for the program. For example, the letter may address why they wish to pursue the 4+1 degree program, their self-assessment of their ability to complete the accelerated undergraduate/graduate degree program, and their commitment to engagement in the fully online degree program (e.g., course engagement, attending the program's community for learner events, engagement with the FAU community at large).

Program Entry and Advising.
Applying directly to the 4+1 upon degree entry. Since the admission criteria for the 4+1 degree differ from the admission criteria for the undergraduate B.E.C.E., students who are interested in earning a bachelor's and master's degree within five years, and meet the admission criteria, may apply directly to the *Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration 4+1 degree.*

Applying to the 4+1 degree after beginning the B.E.C.E. undergraduate degree. Students who apply to and begin the B.E.C.E. undergraduate degree full-time, but decide to pursue the 4+1 degree, must meet the entry requirements for the 4+1 degree and apply no later than the application deadline for spring

entry, or successful completion of their first semester in the B.E.C.E. undergraduate degree, whichever comes first.

Degree Requirements and Course Substitutions

Bachelor in Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) to Master's (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration	
B.E.C.E. Bachelor's degree Course Requirements *Students completing the B.E.C.E. to MED (C&I/ECE) will complete the SUBSTITUTE COURSES (12 credits) indicated during their undergraduate degree program.	**Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration** **Students completing the B.E.C.E. to MED (C&I/INTERDISCIPLINARY ECE) will complete the courses indicated as TAKEN DURING UNDERGRADUATE during their undergraduate degree program
COE Core (12 credits) ▪ EDF 3430 Educational Measurement and Evaluation ▪ LAE 4353 Language Arts and Literature: Birth Through Grade 8 ▪ RED 4308 Reading Development I: Birth Through Grade 3 ▪ TSL 4080 Introduction to Theories and Practices of TESOL	**COE Core. Research and Statistics (6 credits).** ▪ STA 6113 Educational Statistics ▪ EDF 6481 Educational Research
FAU Reading and COE Courses (30 credits) ▪ EEC 3003 Media and Technology in Early Childhood Education: Foundations and Practice ▪ EEC 3214 Designing and Implementing a Blended Curriculum for Young Children ▪ ~~EEC 4303 Creative Arts Young Child~~ *SUBSTITUTE COURSE: EEC 6711 Creative Arts for Young Children ▪ ~~EEC 4313 Blended Early Childhood Teaching Methods~~ SUBSTITUTE COURSE: EEX 5245 Methods in Early Childhood Special Education ▪ EEC 4623 Foundations and Practical Applications of Play-Based Learning for Young Children ▪ EEX 3201 Typical and Atypical Child Development ▪ ~~EEX 3226 Assessing Young Children with and without Disabilities~~ SUBSTITUTE COURSE: EEX	**Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration. (15 credits)** **Take ALL three of the following courses (9 credits):** ▪ EEC 6236 Principles and Models of Early Childhood Curriculum ▪ EEC 6711 Creative Arts for Young Children- **TAKEN DURING UNDERGRADUATE ▪ EEC 6932 Seminar in Early Childhood Education **Choose two of the following courses (6 credits)** ▪ EEC 6026 Foundations of Early Childhood Environmental Education ▪ EEC 6028 Community Engagement in Early Childhood Environmental Education ▪ EEC 6239 Exploring Natural Habitats as a Curriculum for Young Children

5015 Survey and Assessment of Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education ▪ EEX 3603 Positive Behavior Supports in Inclusive Early Childhood Settings ▪ EEX 3754 Building Family, Community and School Partnerships ▪ EEX 4112 Language Development and Intervention in Young Children	▪ EEX 5015 Survey and Assessment of Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education -TAKEN DURING UNDERGRADUATE ▪ EEX 5245 Methods in Early Childhood Special Education -TAKEN DURING UNDERGRADUATE
Electives (18 credits). B.E.C.E./MEd 4+1 STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE THESE COURSES AS A PART OF THEIR B.E.C.E. ELECTIVE BLOCK: ▪ EDG 6224 U.S. Curricular Trends & Issues ▪ Choose a COE RI or DIR course to satisfy the undergraduate research certificate requirements (e.g., EEX 2091RI: Disability and Society) Choose **four additional courses** below: ▪ ARE 4313 Elementary School Art ▪ COM 4703 Storytelling in Popular Culture ▪ DEP 3053 Psychology of Human Development (Prereq: Psy 1012) ▪ EDF 3210 Applied Learning Theory ▪ EDG 4419 Building Classroom Discipline and Management. ▪ EEX 4050 Overview of Individuals served in VE classrooms ▪ EEX 4070 Inclusive Education for General Education ▪ EEX 4763 Special Education Technology ▪ EME 4312 Education Technology ▪ ENT 4024 Entrepreneurship ▪ EXP 3505 Cognition ▪ MAN 3025 Management of Organizations ▪ SYO 3100 Family and Society ▪ TSL 4081 TESOL Issues and Practices (Prereq: ESL 4080	**Curriculum and Instruction Core (12 credits)** ▪ EDG 6224 U.S. Curricular Trends & Issues-TAKEN DURING UNDERGRADUATE ▪ EDG 6253 Design Components of Curriculum ▪ EDG 6285 Program Evaluation in Curriculum & Instruction ▪ EDG 6918 Action Research in Schools & Communities **Choose one of the following courses (3 credits)** ▪ EDF 6637 Race, Class, & Gender Issues in Education ▪ EDG 6625 Global Perspectives of Curricular Trends Across Nations

Catalog addition-Combined Degree Section for the College of Education.

BACHELOR IN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION (B.E.C.E.) TO MASTERS IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION, INTERDISCIPLINARY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CONCENTRATION
(College of Education)

Bachelor in Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) to Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration

The Bachelor in Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) to Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration is a combined program that allows Bachelor in Early Care and Education (B.E.C.E.) majors to complete an additional year of coursework to obtain a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Concentration. Students will take 12 graduate credits as part of their undergraduate coursework and complete the remaining 24 credits after they complete the requirements of their Bachelor's degree.

Application requirements for this degree are as follows:

- Attained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in lower division coursework.
- Two letters of recommendation from a professor/course instructor addressing the student's intellectual, academic, organizational, and personal abilities. For example, the letter may address the student's advanced critical thinking and research skills, academic writing and communication, time management and self-direction, intellectual curiosity, and persistence.
- Personal statement from the applicant delineating why they are applying, and why they are an excellent fit for the program. For example, the letter may address why they wish to pursue the 4+1 degree program, their self-assessment of their ability to complete the accelerated undergraduate/graduate degree program, and their commitment to engagement in the fully online degree program (e.g., course engagement, attending the program's community for learner events, engagement with the FAU community at large).

The following graduate courses will be taken in place of undergraduate courses (shown in brackets) for those students enrolled in this program:

- EDG 6224 U.S. Curricular Trends & Issues (Taken instead of a B.E.C.E. elective)
- EEC 6711 Creative Arts for Young Children (Taken instead of EEC 4303 Creative Arts Young Child)
- EEX 5015 Survey and Assessment of Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education (Taken instead of EEX 3226 Assessment of All Young Children)
- EEX 5245 Methods in Early Childhood Special Education (Taken instead of EEC 4313 Blended Methods in ECE/ECSE)