Alphacrucis University College

COURSE HANDBOOK

Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education

School of Education

COURSE HANDBOOK

Alphacrucis University College

GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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Overview

Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education (GEC)	Director of Studies	Cassandra Pendlebury
	Program Convenor	Dr Debra Williams
	AQF Level	AQF Level 8 (Postgraduate)
	Qualification	Post Graduate Diploma
	Subjects	8
	Languages of Instruction	English
	CRICOS Code	117388C
	ASCED Code	070101
	Accreditation	Self-accreditation *(Last accredited Aug 2024)* Professional accreditation (ACECQA) *(Dec 2024)*
	Course Length	1 years full-time; up to 4 years part-time
	Entry Requirements	https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/graduate-diploma-of-early-childhood/

COURSE OVERVIEW

This Graduate Diploma is a one-year full-time qualification for a career in early childhood education and care services, long day care centres, and preschools. Admission into the course is via an undergraduate degree in any discipline, including a teaching qualification.

The course incorporates 60 days of professional experience in early childhood education settings and covers key areas of child development, education and curriculum studies, family and community contexts, history, and philosophy of early childhood, and ethical leadership and management. The program incorporates evidence-based theory and innovative practice to equip you with the necessary critical and pedagogical strategies in your work in early childhood contexts. It provides opportunity for students to explore these through a Christian worldview and to embed biblical principles and perspectives in their teaching practice. It equips students with the knowledge and skills required to competently address contemporary education and societal challenges.

The course builds on Alphacrucis University College's established expertise in producing graduates with purpose who embody integrity, professional knowledge and who make a positive contribution to society.

This award is accredited by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA).

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Course Structure

Note: Contact the Quality & Standards Team for access to previous course version.

This course structure applies to students enrolled from Semester 1, 2025 onwards.

The course structure is based on two semesters (each of 13 weeks duration).
- 60 credit points of core
- 20 credit points of professional experience

To qualify for the award of Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood a candidate shall accrue an aggregate of at least 80 credit points, including satisfactory completion of the core subjects noted below.

ACECQA requirements specify 60 days supervised professional experience for post graduate teaching qualifications. This must include a minimum of 10 days in Australian Early Childhood settings with children under three years old (birth -35 months), and a minimum of 20 days in Australian Early Childhood settings with children aged three until they start formal schooling, including days with children under five years of age. The remaining balance will be undertaken with children birth-five years in Australian Early Childhood settings.

Content of the course of study		Credit points
Core subjects	EDU430 Early Childhood Perspectives Past and Present EDU431 Early Childhood Praxis and Pedagogy EDU433 Curriculum Studies in Early Childhood EDU432 Early Childhood Development, Wellbeing, and Inclusivity EDU434 Building Partnerships with Families and Communities EDU435 Early Childhood Leadership, Management and Research	6 x 10
Professional Experience	EXP431 Professional Experience 1 (20 days 3 to 5 years) EXP432 Professional Experience 2 (40 days including 15 days in a 0–35-month setting)	2 x 10
Pre-requisites for specific subjects	Pre-requisites are noted on the subject outline. Students must have completed the pre-requisite to enrol in the subject.	
Rules of progression	EDU431 and EDU433 must be completed concurrently or prior to EXP431. EDU431, EDU433 and EXP431 are prerequisites for EXP432	
Other protocols of the course	Students must submit a valid Working with Children Check (or state equivalent) and a valid Nationally Co-ordinated Police Check at course enrolment. They must submit their Anaphylaxis and CPAT certificate at enrolment in their first Professional Experience Unit (EXP431). An 80% attendance is required in all units apart from Placement where student must meet the 60 day requirement (8 hours per day)	

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Indicative Course Progression

Based on a full-time study mode

CORE	PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Year 1	
Semester 1	**Semester 2**
EDU430 Early Childhood Perspectives Past and Present	EDU432 Early Childhood Development, Wellbeing, and Inclusivity
EDU431 Early Childhood Praxis and Pedagogy	EDU434 Building Partnerships with Families and Communities
EDU433 Curriculum Studies in Early Childhood	EDU435 Early Childhood Leadership, Management and Research
EXP431 Professional Experience 1 (20 days 3 to 5 years)	EXP432 Professional Experience 2 (40 days including 15 days in a 0–35-month setting)

Course Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to demonstrate:
• Demonstrate an understanding of inclusivity in practice that is informed by the connection between educational theories and research connected to teaching and learning.
• Synthesise educational research principles and methods to critically evaluate application of educational programs and policies.
• Integrate an understanding of pedagogically sound learning experiences consistent with a Christian worldview and appropriate to the demands of the Early Childhood teaching context in of planning, implementation, assessment and reporting

Graduates will be able to demonstrate ability to:
• Critically reflect on, and apply, effective pedagogical assessment approaches that enable 'belonging, being and becoming' of infants, toddlers, and young children.
• Evaluate, synthesise and critically reflect and engage with theoretical knowledge regarding the stages of development in physical, cognitive, social/emotional, and spiritual growth in children with diverse profiles and apply strategies for progression.
• Implement evidence-based practice and generate new evidence to improve teaching and learning practice.
• Communicate effectively complex ideas and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences in diverse contexts.
• Critically evaluate research issues and principles connected with professional decision-making as an early childhood professional/leader in educational settings.
• Communicate effective ethical, reflective, and informed early childhood professional practice when working with colleagues, communities, children and their families, and other stakeholders.
• Articulate new questions and apply the knowledge and skills developed within the Early Childhood context.
• Comply with professional codes of ethics and regulations which impact on the ability to work with children and keep abreast of changes in the legislation and practice applicable to the specific teaching context.
• Work independently, responsibly and with the level of professionalism expected of practitioner within the Early Childhood context.
• Implement evidence-based practice and critical reflection to improve teaching and learning practice.

Work Integrated Learning

Work Integrated Learning may be undertaken through various Professional Practice a Work-Integrated Learning will be undertaken through Professional Experience Placements. These subjects seek to create a direct linkage between the learning, skills and values engaged in lectures, and the reflection which occurs when these are applied in real-life settings. These work-based training subjects comprise of instruction, academic assessment and a placement in a workplace for each subject. Organisation and placement will be conducted by the AC Professional Experience Coordinator. Please note that AC professional experience team will try to arrange a professional experience close to where you live but that this may not always be possible and students may need to travel to their professional experience site. Students can also organise their own placement this, however, needs to be approved by the AC professional experience team and the conditions of the placement need to meet the course and tertiary requirements

1. EXP431 Professional Experience 1 (10-days 0-3 and 20-days 3 to 5 in Early Childhood and Care Centre)
2. EXP432 Professional Experience 2 (30 days - 0 to 5 in Early Childhood and Care Centre)

For further information related to Work-Integrated Learning please see the Early Childhood Professional Experience Handbook or contact our [Professional Experience](#) team Education.PEX@ac.edu.au

Other Course Information

For other course information, such as information on Professional Accreditation and available intakes, visit the course web page:

https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/graduate-diploma-of-early-childhood/

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Useful Links

AC WEBSITE

https://www.ac.edu.au/

HOW TO ENROL

Please see the **Timetable** for available subjects and contact **Student Support Team** for tailored academic advice before completing the enrolment form.

AC POLICIES

https://ww1.ac.edu.au/ppm/

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Enrolled students will have access to AC's **LMS**

FEES

https://www.ac.edu.au/fees-financing/

STUDENT FORMS

https://www.ac.edu.au/forms/

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

https://ww1.ac.edu.au/ppm/graduate-attributes-policy/

Student Support

The Student Support team are available if you need assistance. Email the team via: studentsupport@ac.edu.au or book a phone or video call via: Bookings

Phone: (02) 8893 9005

https://www.ac.edu.au/student-services/

For disability support please contact dso@ac.edu.au

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COURSE PROGRESSION TRACKING TEMPLATE

Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education (GEC)

Student:	
Student ID number:	
Year of commencement:	

Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education requirements:
- 60 cp Core + 20 cp Professional Experience

6 Core subjects Subject Code & Name	Subject Credit Points	Comments

2 Professional Experience subjects Subject Code & Name	Subject Credit Points	Comments