Alphacrucis University College

COURSE HANDBOOK

BACHELOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (BIRTH TO 5)

School of Education

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Table of Contents

Overview 2
Course Structure 3
Recommended Course Progression 5
Course Learning Outcomes 7
Work Integrated Learning 8
Other Course Information 9
Useful Links 10
Student Support 11
Appendix 1 12

COURSE HANDBOOK

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BACHELOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (BIRTH TO 5)

Overview

Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Birth to 5) (BEE)	Program Director	Michael Parzakonis
	AQF Level	AQF Level 7
	Qualification	Bachelor
	Subjects	24
	Languages of Instruction	English
	CRICOS Code	119372F
	ASCED Code	070101
	Accreditation	Self-accreditation *(Last accredited April 2025)* Professional accreditation (ACECQA)
	Course Length	3 years full-time; up to 8 years part-time
	Entry Requirements	*https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/bachelor-of-early-childhood-education/*

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Bachelor of Early Childhood (Birth to 5) is a three-year full-time qualification in early childhood education and care services, long day care centres, and preschools.

The course incorporates 80 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).

Course Structure

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

This course structure applies to students enrolled from Semester 2, 2026 onwards.

The course structure is based on six semesters (each of 12 weeks duration), with four subjects taught in each semester.

- 10 cp from Christian Studies
- 180 cp Education Studies
- 10 cp Curriculum Studies
- 20 cp ECEC Professional Experience (Minimum 40 Days)
- 20 cp ECEC Professional Experience (remaining balance to total 80 days)
  Minimum of 15 days in Australian early childhood settings with children under three years old (birth – 35 months).
  Minimum of 30 days in Australian early childhood settings with children aged three to five, before they start formal schooling.
  The remaining balance will be undertaken in approved early childhood education and care settings with children aged birth to five years of age.

To qualify for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Early Childhood Education students must accrue an aggregate of at least 240 credit points.

Content of the course of study		Credit points
Core subjects	EDU131 The Australian Early Childhood Context EDU108 Introduction to Academic Writing and Research ACA171 Faith and Purpose EDU130 Early Childhood Perspectives Past and Present EDU132 Early Childhood Development, Wellbeing and Inclusivity EDU140 Early Childhood Praxis and Pedagogy EDU115 Brain Development from a 21st Century Perspective EDU142 Early Childhood Ethics and Professional Practice CRS252 Early Childhood Language and Literacy EDU250 Teaching Pedagogies EDU240 Curriculum Studies in Early Childhood 1 (Numeracy, STEM, Learning and Teaching through Digital Technology) EDU242 Play-based Pedagogies EDU141 Curriculum Planning, Programming, Assessment and Evaluation EDU241 Curriculum Studies in Early Childhood 2 (Creative Arts and Movement) EDU238 Differentiation and Engagement EDU334 Building Partnerships with Families and Communities	20 x 10

	EDU350 Curriculum Studies in Early Childhood 3 (Social and environmental Education in Early Childhood; Physical Education) EDU335 Early Childhood Leadership, Management and Research EDU224 Inclusive Education EDU127 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives	
Professional Experience	EXP120 Professional Experience 1 (20 days with children aged 3-5 years) EXP221 Professional Experience 2 (20 days with children aged 3-5 years) EXP320 Professional Experience 3 (20 days including a minimum of 15 days with children aged 0-35 months) EXP330 Professional Experience 4 (20 days)	4 x 10
Rules of progression	Maximum of 10 subjects (100 credit points) at 100 level, and at least four subjects (40 credit points) at 300 level.	
Nested Courses	Students may exit the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education with an Advanced Diploma in Education on completing the first two years of study (160 Credit points).	
Other protocols of the course	The WWCC (or State Equivalent) and Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check are required at **course enrolment**. Other placement requirements need to be completed at enrolment in EXP120 these include the Anaphylaxis training and completion of state required child protection training courses. This course has an 80% attendance requirement in all EDU units and the completion of 80 full days of professional experience.	
Pre-requisites for specific subjects	Pre-requisites and co-requisites are noted on the subject outline. Students must have completed the pre-requisite or be doing a co-requisite to enrol in a subject.	
ACECQA Professional Experience Requirements	**80 days supervised professional experience for undergraduate early childhood teaching qualifications.** This must include a minimum of 15 days in Australian early childhood settings with children under three years of (birth-35 months), and a minimum of 25 days in Australian early childhood settings with children aged three until before they start formal schooling, including days with children under five years of age. **https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-11/Requirements%20for%20early%20childhood%20teaching%20program%20assessments.pdf**	

Recommended Course Progression

Based on a full-time study mode

CORE	PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

First Year			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
EDU131	The Australian Early Childhood Context	EDU132	Early Childhood Development, Wellbeing and Inclusivity *Prereq.: EDU130, EDU131*
EDU108	Introduction to Academic Writing and Research	EDU140	Early Childhood Praxis and Pedagogy *Prereq.: EDU130, EDU131*
ACA171	Faith and Purpose	EDU141	Curriculum Planning, Programming, Assessment and Evaluation
EDU130	Early Childhood Perspectives Past and Present	EDU142	Early Childhood Ethics and Professional Practice *Prereq.: EDU130, EDU131*
Second Year			
Semester 3		**Semester 4**	
CRS252	Early Childhood Language and Literacy	EDU242	Play-based Pedagogies *Prereq: EDU130, EDU131, EDU140*
EDU127	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives	EDU334	Building Partnerships with Families and Communities
EDU240	Curriculum Studies in Early Childhood 1: (Numeracy; STEM. Learning and Teaching through Digital Technology) *Prereq.: EDU130, EDU131, EDU140*	EDU241	Curriculum Studies in Early Childhood 2: (Creative Arts and Movement) *Prereq: EDU130, EDU131, EDU140*
EXP120	Professional Experience 1 (3-5 yrs.) (20 days) *Prereq.: EDU130, EDU131, EDU140* *Coreq.: EDU240*	EXP221	Professional Experience 2 (20 days with children aged 3-5 years) *Prereq: EDU130, EDU131, EDU140, EDU240, EDU250, EXP120*
Third Year			
Semester 5		**Semester 6**	
EDU115	Brain Development from a 21st Century Perspective *Prereq: EDU130, EDU131, EDU140*	EDU335	Early Childhood Leadership, Management and Research

			Prereq: EDU130, EDU131, EDU140
EDU250	Teaching Pedagogies	EDU224	Inclusive Education
EDU350	Curriculum Studies in Early Childhood 3 (Social and Environmental Education in Early Childhood; Physical Education)	EDU238	Differentiation and Engagement *Prereq: EDU130, EDU131, EDU140*
EXP320	Professional Experience 3 (20 days - Minimum 15 days Birth to 35 months) *Prereq: EDU130, EDU131, EDU140, EDU250, EXP120, EXP221*	EXP330	Professional Experience 4 (20 Days) *Prereq: EDU130, EDU131, EDU140, EDU250, EXP120, EXP221, EXP320*

Course Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to demonstrate:
• inclusivity in practice that is informed by the connection between educational theories and research connected to teaching and learning.
• understanding of educational research principles and methods to critically evaluate educational programs and policies.
• integrated understanding of the planning, implementation, assessment and reporting of pedagogically sound learning experiences consistent with a Christian worldview and appropriate to the demands of the Early Childhood teaching context.
Graduates will be able to demonstrate ability to:
• apply effective pedagogical teaching and assessment approaches that enable 'belonging, being and becoming' of infants, toddlers, and young children.
• apply theoretical knowledge of the physical, cognitive, social/emotional development and spiritual growth in children with diverse profiles and apply strategies to support their holistic development and progression.
• integrate evidence-based practice within a current and approved assessment and planning learning cycle.
• communicate effectively complex ideas and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences in diverse contexts.
• Analyse complex problems and apply effective decision-making techniques as an early childhood professional/leader to resolve these in educational settings.
• Apply ethical, reflective, and informed early childhood professional practice when working with colleagues, communities, children and their families, and other stakeholders.
• 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 practitioners within the Early Childhood context.
• Implement evidence-based practice and critical reflection in Early Childhood Education and Care to improve teaching and children's learning outcomes.

Work Integrated Learning

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. EXP120 Professional Experience 1 (20 days with children aged 3-5 years)
2. EXP221 Professional Experience 2 (20 days with children aged 3-5 years)
3. EXP320 Professional Experience 3 (20 days including a minimum of 15 days with children aged 0-35 months)
4. EXP330 Professional Experience 4 (20 days)

ACECQA requirements for the Bachelor of Early Childhood Birth to Five Years are as follows:

80 days supervised professional experience for undergraduate early childhood teaching qualifications. This must include a minimum of 15 days in Australian early childhood settings with children under three years of (birth-35 months), and a minimum of 25 days in Australian early childhood settings with children aged three until before they start formal schooling, including days with children under five years of age.

NB Early Childhood settings are children's Education and Care services that base their educational program on the National Quality Framework approved learning framework.

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/bachelor-of-early-childhood-education/

Useful Links

AC WEBSITE

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

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

https://www.ac.edu.au/key-dates/

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

Appendix 1

COURSE PROGRESSION TRACKING TEMPLATE

Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Birth to 5) (BEE)

Student:	
Student ID number:	
Year of commencement:	

Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Birth to 5) (BEE) requirements:

- 10 cp from Christian Studies
- 180 cp Education Studies
- 10 cp Curriculum Studies
- 20 cp ECEC Professional Experience (Minimum 40 Days)
- 20 cp ECEC Professional Experience (remaining balance to total 80 days)

10 cp Christian Studies subject Subject Code & Name	**Subject Credit Points**	**Comments**

10 cp Curriculum Studies subject Subject Code & Name	**Subject Credit Points**	**Comments**

180 cp Education Studies subjects Subject Code & Name	**Subject Credit Points**	**Comments**

40 cp Professional Experience subjects Subject Code & Name	Subject Credit Points	Comments