



ACADEMIC ALERT #2007-08

DATE: March, 2007

DECISION: National College of Education (NCE)

New Early Childhood Practicing Professional (ECP) Program (Type 04 Certification, Graduate, Non-Degree)

Rationale:

This program is designed to assist individuals who are practicing professionals employed by preschools or childcare centers to earn Type 04 certification. The ECP program provides eligible candidates with a non-degree path to certification. The program is intended to increase quality in preschool education in a way that recognizes the value of candidates' prior experience and learning.

Senate Academic Planning Committee Approval: March 7, 2007

Faculty Senate Approval: March 21, 2007

Provost Approval: March 21, 2007

Program Authorizations: The New Early Childhood Practicing Professional (ECP) Program (Type 04 Certification, Graduate, Non-Degree) is authorized to be offered in the following Illinois Regions: Chicago; North Suburban; West Suburban; and South Metropolitan.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Effective Spring Quarter 2007; April 1, 2007

CONTACTS: Patricia Anderson, Faculty, Early Childhood Education, (630) 874-4627

Kathleen Sheridan, Faculty, Early Childhood Education, (224) 233-2311

SIGNATURE

**Carol R. Melnick, Ph.D.
Vice Provost**

Admission Requirements

- Completed application
- Three professional or academic references
- Written statement
- Baccalaureate Degree from a regionally-accredited institution in early childhood education or a closely-related field
- Minimum of three academic years of successful experience as a lead teacher, assistant teacher or program administrator (e.g. program director, owner, or education coordinator) serving children aged birth to eight within the five years prior to enrollment in ECPP, verified in writing through a required resume
- Passing scores on the Illinois Test of Basic Skills not older than 5 years
- Miller Analogies test score
- Faculty Review (Interview may be required)

Candidates must be admitted to the ECPP program and be enrolled in a minimum of four semester hours to be eligible to receive financial aid.

Early Childhood Practicing Professional (ECPP) Program (Type 04 Certification, Graduate, Non-Degree)

Experienced early childhood teachers who hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited institution but have no teaching certificate may earn certification in early childhood education through this standards-based sequence. Candidates must submit an application for admission to National College of Education, must have achieved a passing score on the Illinois Test of Basic Skills, and must participate in an interview with Early Childhood Education faculty.

Eligible candidates begin by completing ECE 567 which includes the development of a college-approved electronic portfolio as an assessment of the extent to which they have met the state standards for early childhood certification. The portfolio will be reviewed by a faculty team and additional requirements for the certificate will be determined. Candidates then meet with an advisor from early childhood to plan a personalized program. At the conclusion of this personalized program, candidates complete a practicum experience, ECE 568, with the minimum number of hours required as 3 SH, and the maximum as 6 SH. Hours are determined by a faculty advisor, taking into account candidates' previous experience and state standards. At the conclusion of the practicum, candidates may apply for state certification in early childhood education.

Required Courses (Newly Developed Courses)

ECE 567	Portfolio Development for Practicing Professionals	4 semester hours
ECE 568	Practicum for Practicing Professionals	3-6 semester hours

If additional courses are required for complete certification standards, these are determined in collaboration with an advisor.

Implementation

All changes need to be entered in Banner and CAPP.

Marketing materials need to be developed for this new program and added to NLU's website.

Language must be precise and accurate in the way the ECPP (Type 04 Certification, Graduate, Non-Degree) is described in any written materials and verbally communicated to students. Compliance must be adhered to and there is no room for error.

The new catalog copy will be written and submitted to the Vice Provost and Assistant Registrar for Schedules and Catalogs to ensure that catalog copy is prepared and ready for the next catalog.