

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP, POLICY, AND PRACTICE UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR (BA, HBA, BS, HBS)

This program is available at the following location:

- OSU-Cascades

The Early Childhood Leadership, Policy, and Practice bachelor's degree prepares students to work across systems and advance solutions to promote young children's wellbeing across contexts, such as family, school, and community. The degree is built flexibly for students to tailor their education to career pathways. Students take courses in human development and family science, as well as policy, leadership, and communication. Through a series of practicum, internship, and capstone courses, students graduate ready to bring early childhood expertise to positions in leadership, policy, and/or working directly with young children.

Graduates draw on real-world experience and professional networks to pursue meaningful careers or advanced study in early childhood leadership, mental and behavioral health, policy, and in a range of systems that support children, their families, and their communities. To accommodate both first year students as well as those with prior learning experiences and/or community college or university credits, this degree offers flexible pathways aligned with a wide array of career opportunities and graduate programs.

Focal Areas Aligned with Career Pathways

Students may personalize their degree by selecting a focal area. Focal areas are not transcript visible.

All students will also be prepared for working directly with young children in early childhood settings.

- **Leadership:** prepares early childhood workforce leaders to support, coach, lead, and retain educators.
- **Behavioral Health Foundations:** prepares students with a base of knowledge and skills in applied mental and behavioral health, with expertise in young children and families.
- **Policy and Advocacy:** prepares graduates to contribute to policy and advocacy, bringing knowledge and skills in child development, families, social systems, and early learning.

Some careers may require a graduate degree. OSU students can apply to begin accelerated master's programs during their junior year in areas such as applied behavioral health, public health, public policy, social work. Additional graduate programs such as counseling and education are also strongly aligned with this undergraduate major.

Major Code: A077

Upon successful completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Apply leadership and management principles to foster ethical, inclusive, and person-centered work environments in early childhood through strengths-based and empowering approaches.

- Integrate evidence-based, developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive, and/or trauma-informed strategies to support the holistic development and resilience of young children with their families, and/or professionals who serve them.
- Utilize data and research to effectively inform practices, policies, programs that support thriving children, families, professionals, and communities.
- Apply effective interpersonal, intercultural, and professional communication skills.
- Develop policies that reduce barriers and promote wellbeing for young children within the context of the families, schools, and/or communities.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Core		
HDFS 233	+INTRODUCTION TO THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD	3
HDFS 311	INFANT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT	4
HDFS 330	ENGAGING WITH CHILDREN AGES 0-8	4
HDFS 331	PRACTICUM IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT	3
HDFS 433	EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERNSHIP	6
HDFS 464	CAPSTONE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP AND POLICY	4
Supplemental HDFS Core		
HDFS 361	APPLIED RESEARCH METHODS	4
HDFS 432	CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES	3
HDFS 447	+FAMILIES AND POVERTY	4
HDFS 460	FAMILY POLICY	4
HDFS 461	*PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND PROPOSAL WRITING	4
HDFS 463	TRAUMA-INFORMED FAMILY PRACTICES	4
HDFS 431	FAMILY, SCHOOL, AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION	3-4
or HDFS 444	FAMILY VIOLENCE AND NEGLECT	
or HDFS 462	PROFESSIONAL HELPING SKILLS	
Statistics		
Select one course from the following: ¹		3-4
H 220	INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH DATA ANALYSIS	
PSY 298	QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE	
ST 243Z	+ELEMENTARY STATISTICS I	
ST 351	INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICAL METHODS	
Social Context		
Select one course from the following: ¹		3-4
ED 150	+DISABILITY AS DIVERSITY: DIFFERENCES MAKE US HUMAN	
ED 219	+*SOCIAL JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS & MULTICULTURALISM IN EDUCATION	
ED 455	+DISABILITY AT THE INTERSECTIONS: EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS & MARGINALIZED IDENTITIES	
H 225	+*SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH	
HDFS 240	+*HUMAN SEXUALITY	
HDFS 341	FAMILY STUDIES	
SOC 351	*SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL ILLNESS	
SOC 426	*SOCIAL INEQUALITY	
SOC 439	WELFARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES	
SW 204	+ANTIRACISM AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN PRACTICE	
Leadership & Policy		
Select 18 credits from the following, with a minimum of 3 credits in each category and a minimum of 9 upper-division credits: ^{1,2}		18
Leadership		
AHE 450	EXPLORING LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION	
BA 252	INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR	
or BA 251	+MANAGING ORGANIZATIONS	
BA 283	NAVIGATING CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE	

COMM 325	COMMUNICATING LEADERSHIP
HDFS 478	TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP
LEAD 242	+PERSONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
LEAD 252	*MULTICULTURAL LEADERSHIP
LEAD 262	+*TEAM AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP
LEAD 442	LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR CAREER SUCCESS
LEAD 443	LEADERSHIP THROUGH CONVERSATIONS
Policy	
H 210	*INTRODUCTION TO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
H 319	INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH POLICY
PPOL 201	+INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY
PPOL 372	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
PS 201	+*INTRODUCTION TO UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
PS 331	*STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS
SOC 439	WELFARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES
SW 413	TRANSFORMING SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES AND SYSTEMS
Communication	
COMM 111Z	+*PUBLIC SPEAKING
COMM 114	+*ARGUMENT AND CRITICAL DISCOURSE
COMM 218Z	+*INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
COMM 222	+SMALL-GROUP COMMUNICATION
COMM 226	+INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION
COMM 316	ADVANCED PERSUASION
COMM 323	COMMUNITY DIALOGUE
COMM 324	COMMUNICATION IN ORGANIZATIONS
COMM 325	COMMUNICATING LEADERSHIP
HDFS 462	PROFESSIONAL HELPING SKILLS
SW 214	+CULTURALLY AFFIRMING AND NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION
Remaining Core Ed, BA/BS Requirements and Electives	
103-106	
Total Credits	
180	

- * Baccalaureate Core course. Applies to general education requirements for undergraduate students in a catalog year up to 2024-2025
- + Core Education course. Applies to general education requirements for undergraduate students in catalog year 2025-2026 and beyond
- ^ Writing Intensive Curriculum (WIC) course
- ¹ Courses completed at COCC may count for Statistics, Social Context, Leadership & Policy credits with advisor approval. See your academic advisor for a list of pre-approved COCC courses
- ² Leadership & Policy credits may be personalized to career paths, using Focal Areas for guidance. See your academic advisor for more information about Focal Areas

Major Code: A077

Degree plans are subject to change and the following is only an example of how students may complete their degree in four years. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best degree plan for them. Contact details for advisors can be found on the Academic Advising (<https://catalog.oregonstate.edu/advising/>) page.

Bachelor of Arts

First Year	
Fall	
Credits	
WR 121Z	+*COMPOSITION I
4	
Language 111	
4	
Core Ed: Transitions	
2	
Core Ed: Communication, Media & Society	
3-4	

Core Ed: Difference, Power & Oppression Foundations	
3-4	
Credits	
16	
Winter	
HDFS 233	+INTRODUCTION TO THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
3	
Statistics	
3-4	
Language 112	
4	
Core Ed: Arts & Humanities General	
3-4	
Credits	
15	
Spring	
Language 113	
4	
Core Ed: Arts & Humanities Global	
3-4	
Core Ed: Quantitative Literacy & Analysis	
4	
Core Ed: Social Science	
3-4	
Credits	
15	
Second Year	
Fall	
HDFS 311	INFANT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
4	
Social Context	
3-4	
Policy	
3	
Language 211	
4	
Credits	
14	
Winter	
HDFS 330	ENGAGING WITH CHILDREN AGES 0-8
4	
Communication	
3	
Upper-Division Leadership & Policy	
3	
Language 212	
4	
Credits	
14	
Spring	
HDFS 331	PRACTICUM IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT
3	
HDFS 432	CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES
3	
Leadership	
3	
Language 213	
4	
Elective	
3	
Credits	
16	
Third Year	
Fall	
HDFS 447	+FAMILIES AND POVERTY
4	
Upper-Division Leadership & Policy	
3	
Electives	
8	
Credits	
15	
Winter	
HDFS 361	APPLIED RESEARCH METHODS
4	
HDFS 431	FAMILY, SCHOOL, AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION
3-4	
or HDFS 444	or FAMILY VIOLENCE AND NEGLECT
or HDFS 462	or PROFESSIONAL HELPING SKILLS
Core Ed: Scientific Inquiry & Analysis	
4	
Elective	
3	
Credits	
15	
Spring	
HDFS 463	TRAUMA-INFORMED FAMILY PRACTICES
4	
HDFS 460	FAMILY POLICY
4	
Core Ed: Scientific Inquiry & Analysis	
4	
Upper-Division Leadership & Policy	
3	
Credits	
15	
Fourth Year	
Fall	
HDFS 433	EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERNSHIP
6	
Core Ed: Seeking Solutions	
3-4	
Electives	
6	
Credits	
15	

Winter		
HDFS 464	CAPSTONE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP AND POLICY	4
Core Ed: Writing Elevation		3-4
Electives		9
Credits		16
Spring		
HDFS 461	*PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND PROPOSAL WRITING	4
Electives		10
Credits		14
Total Credits		180

Bachelor of Science

First Year

Fall			Credits
WR 121Z	+*COMPOSITION I	4	
Core Ed: Transitions		2	
Core Ed: Arts & Humanities General		3-4	
Core Ed: Communication, Media & Society		3-4	
Core Ed: Social Science		3-4	
Credits		15	
Winter			
HDFS 233	+INTRODUCTION TO THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD	3	
Statistics		3-4	
Core Ed: Arts & Humanities Global		3-4	
Core Ed: Difference, Power & Oppression Foundations		3-4	
Credits		15	
Spring			
Communication		3	
Social Context		3-4	
Core Ed: Quantitative Literacy & Analysis		4	
Elective		4	
Credits		15	

Second Year

Fall		
HDFS 311	INFANT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT	4
Leadership		3
Elective		7
Credits		14
Winter		
HDFS 330	ENGAGING WITH CHILDREN AGES 0-8	4
Policy		3
Core Ed: Scientific Inquiry & Analysis		4
Elective		3
Credits		14
Spring		
HDFS 331	PRACTICUM IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT	3
HDFS 432	CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES	3
Core Ed: Scientific Inquiry & Analysis		4
Electives		6
Credits		16
Third Year		
Fall		
HDFS 447	+FAMILIES AND POVERTY	4
Upper-Division Leadership & Policy		3
Electives		8
Credits		15
Winter		
HDFS 361	APPLIED RESEARCH METHODS	4

HDFS 462 or HDFS 431 or HDFS 444	PROFESSIONAL HELPING SKILLS or FAMILY, SCHOOL, AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION or FAMILY VIOLENCE AND NEGLECT	3-4
Upper-Division Leadership & Policy		3
Core Ed: Seeking Solutions		3-4
Credits		14
Spring		
HDFS 463	TRAUMA-INFORMED FAMILY PRACTICES	4
HDFS 460	FAMILY POLICY	4
Upper-Division Leadership & Policy		3
Core Ed: Writing Elevation		3-4
Credits		15
Fourth Year		
Fall		
HDFS 433	EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERNSHIP	6
Electives		10
Credits		16
Winter		
HDFS 464	CAPSTONE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP AND POLICY	4
Electives		12
Credits		16
Spring		
HDFS 461	*PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND PROPOSAL WRITING	4
Electives		11
Credits		15
Total Credits		180

* Baccalaureate Core course. Applies to general education requirements for undergraduate students in a catalog year up to 2024-2025

+ Core Education course. Applies to general education requirements for undergraduate students in catalog year 2025-2026 and beyond

^ Writing Intensive Curriculum (WIC) course