Prepared by the Department of Social Science, Behavioral Science, and Human Services

Date Approved by Department: May 2, 2011

1. Course Number: ECE100

Course Title: Introduction to Early Childhood Education

2. **Description**: This course explores the role of the pre-school teacher and his/her responsibilities: forming a professional attitude, relating effectively with others, and managing successfully within the pre-school environment in daily learning and social situations. It includes observations of children in a childcare setting. (12 hours observation/field work per semester)

3. Student Learning Outcomes (instructional objectives, intellectual skills).

Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following.

- 1. Promote Child Development and Learning
 - Apply the whole child model to all aspects of your practice (observation, lessons plans, field work) including the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development of all children of all abilities.
 - Apply specific theories of child development to their teaching practice, including Erik Erikson, Jean Piaget, and Lev Vygotsky.
- 2. Build Family and Community Relationships
 - Apply concepts of diversity and anti-bias curriculum to relationships with family and community.
 Develop communication skills with families and people in the community
 - Use community resources to benefit children and families, including referral services for special needs, child abuse and neglect, and children and families under stress
- 3. Observe, Document and Assess to Support Young Children and Families
 - Observe, record and analyze ECE programs, activities, and individual children (including running records, anecdotes, check lists, etc.)
 - Apply observations to case studies, curriculum planning and assessment of children and programs.
- 4. Use Developmentally Effective Approaches
 - Reflect on own practice to promote positive outcomes for children
 - Use a broad repertoire of developmentally appropriate teaching and learning approaches
 - Use positive classroom management strategies
- 5. Build Meaningful Curriculum
 - Plan developmentally effective learning experiences for children of all abilities
- 6. Become a Professional
 - Apply professional ethics to all aspects of their practice with children, families, and colleagues
 - Participate in advocacy activities on behalf of children and families.
 - Collaborate with colleagues and families to support children
 - Apply national and state standards and guidelines to your practice.
- 4. Credits: 3 credits
- 5. Satisfies a General Education Requirement: No
- 6. Prerequisites: ENL020 and ENL050 or satisfactory basic skills assessment scores
- 7. Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring

- **8.** Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation: Students are graded on attendance and participation, completion of field observations, article reviews, quizzes, exams, and research papers.
- 9. General Topical Outline (Optional): Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services Group Day Care regulations, professional ethics, how children learn, application of child development theories (Piaget, Erikson, Vygotsky), observation in the early childhood classroom, activity centers and materials in the classroom, Early Childhood Education job descriptions, health and safety, children and families under stress, child abuse, children with special needs, classroom management, diversity issues.