



GROW YOUR UNDERSTANDING, EXPERTISE, AND IMPACT

The Early Childhood Policy certificate provides students with a greater understanding of early childhood development issues and the expertise to apply that knowledge to policies affecting young children and their caregivers. The certificate program focuses on preparing students to take on leadership roles in government and organizations that shape policy.

THE CERTIFICATE IS IDEAL FOR

- Currently enrolled graduate students seeking to enhance their knowledge and skills in a policy area of growing importance
- Early childhood practitioners and educators seeking professional development with the flexibility of a shorter credential program
- Government or nonprofit managers, community organizers, and policy analysts
- Prospective students exploring the possibility of beginning a regular graduate degree program

THE BENEFITS

- Increases understanding of early childhood development issues and their impact on policy formation
- Advances understanding of the economics of investment in early learning and the effect on reducing the achievement gap
- Harnesses the University of Minnesota's cutting-edge research with Humphrey School faculty experts in this field
- Connects students with policymakers and nonprofit organizations working on early childhood policy for internships and research opportunities
- Offers courses taught by faculty engaged in early childhood policy research from the Department of Educational Psychology, the Department of Social Work, the Institute of Child Development, UMN Extension, and more
- Enhances capacity to develop sound public policy to support our youngest citizens

CERTIFICATES IN DEGREE PROGRAMS

Coursework taken for the Early Childhood Policy certificate may be applied towards a graduate degree. Consult your degree program or adviser for more information.

REQUIREMENTS

The Early Childhood Policy certificate requires 12 semester credits, including three credits in a cornerstone course, one policy elective, one open elective, and a capstone workshop, professional paper, or independent study focused on early childhood. All courses must be taken for a letter grade.

PREREQUISITES

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution
- A preferred undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above
- A valid TOEFL or IELTS exam, with a minimum score of 100 (TOEFL) or 7.0 (IELTS) for international students

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Resume
- Personal statement
- College transcripts
- TOEFL/IELTS scores (required for most non-native English speakers)

For details on application prerequisites and procedures, visit hhh.umn.edu

