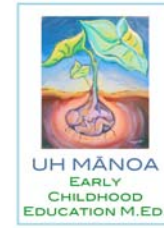


MEd Early Childhood Education Program of Studies



The MEd in ECE consists of a minimum of 30 credits. Plan B students complete the 18 credits of mandatory coursework, a minimum of 9 credits of electives and 3 credits that focus on Plan B Portfolio development (EDCS 695). Students following this plan complete a Professional Portfolio for their Plan B capstone that is based on current program requirements.

If students choose to complete a Plan A, they complete 18 credits of mandatory coursework, a minimum of 6 elective credits, and 6 credits of thesis research (EDCS 700). Additional credits may be required at the discretion of the student’s advisor and students should be prepared to take longer if necessary. Students following this plan will complete a thesis based on original research.

Mandatory Courses (18 credits)

All students enroll in 18 credits of mandatory coursework held in three consecutive intensive all-day summer sessions. Mandatory courses take place over the course of three weeks between mid-June and mid-July. They are generally are scheduled between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Each Spring information will be emailed to students prior to face-to-face coursework.

Summer 1	Summer 2	Summer 3
FamR 491: Advanced Child Development (3)	EDCS 632: Qualitative Research Methods (3)*	FamR 454: Family Public Policy (3)
EDCS 667: Issues and Trends in Early Childhood Education (3)	SpED 631: Early Intervention for Special Populations (3)	EDCS 618: ECE Advanced Topics: Professionalism and Ethics (3)

*EDCS 632 is classified as a Fall course in Year 2 of the program so that students are able to design, implement and report on an action research project carried out in their setting.

Capstone Courses (3-6 credits)

Students also enroll in coursework to support the capstone option they select.

Plan A*	Plan B
Capstone Courses for Plan A (6) EDCS 700 (3) EDCS 700 (3)	Capstone Courses for Plan B (3) EDCS 695: Plan B Portfolio (1) Year 1 Fall EDCS 695: Plan B Portfolio (1) Year 2 Spring EDCS 695: Plan B Portfolio (1) Year 3 Fall

Elective Courses (9 credits)

Students enroll in additional electives to complete their program of study. The number of credits required varies on the capstone selected.

Plan A*	Plan B
Electives (6 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none">••	Electives (9 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none">•••

Several options are available for completing elective coursework. The program is designed to offer flexible solutions that accommodate the diverse needs of our students. Many students stay for an additional week of on-ground coursework each summer to complete electives. The following options are available to complete program electives:

- **EDCS 656: Seminar in Issues in Early Childhood Education (3)** A special hybrid course with one week of face-to-face and on-line follow-up will be offered each summer after MEd ECE mandatory courses. Topics vary. (Repeatable.)
- **EDCS 699: Independent Studies (3)** Students may enroll in up to 6 credits of independent studies. This is to be negotiated with their program advisor or a designated faculty person.
- **Transfer Credits.** Students may petition to include up to 9 credits of graduate coursework from another accredited institution.
- **Academic Year Offerings.** Students may elect to take graduate courses offered by the PK-3 MEd program during the academic year.

Work closely with your advisor to assure the courses you select will meet program requirements.

Culminating Project - Plan A and Plan B Options

The M.Ed. degree should represent more than the completion of a collection of courses. It should demonstrate mastery in some aspect of your field of study. By the end of your first summer after you enter the program, decide on which option you would like to pursue and begin to identify areas of interest that can be the focus of coursework, research, professional practice and eventually the culminating project.

Completion of the culminating project assures the MEd in Early Childhood Education Program and the Graduate Division at the University of Hawai'i that you have achieved graduate level knowledge and skill in an area of inquiry.

If you anticipate continuing in graduate school for a doctoral degree, you might want to consider writing a thesis (Plan A) as preparation for advanced study. The Plan A paper must be based on empirical research. If you decide on Plan A, you will follow the guidelines of the Graduate Division.

The Plan B project is a suitable choice for students expecting to work in applied settings after receiving their degrees. The Plan B project should have professional merit and value in the student's area of specialization. For this program, the Plan B option is a Professional Portfolio. Since a majority of our students are working professionals who choose the Plan B option, this is elaborated on in our handbook.

Summary of Plan A and Plan B Requirements

Requirements for Plan A	Requirements for Plan B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A three person committee: two from the MEd ECE graduate faculty (one of whom is the chair), the third from another department (all committee members must be on Graduate Faculty) • Mandatory MEd ECE coursework (18 credits) • Additional research courses approved by the committee • 6 credit hours of EDCS 700 Thesis Research • Registration in EDCS 700 the semester of graduation • UH Human Subjects Committee approval for study • A Plan A Thesis • Oral defense of the Plan A Thesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Program Advisor who is a member of the MEd ECE Graduate Faculty and a Second Reader responds to the Plan B Professional Portfolio and attends the oral defense. The second reader must have a Master's degree. • Mandatory MEd ECE coursework (18 credits) • 3 credits of EDCS 695 Plan B Portfolio • 9 credits of elective coursework in major • Up to 6 credit hours of 699 (Directed Study) may be taken • Must be registered for at least one credit the semester of graduation • UH Human Subjects Committee approval for all studies that include human subjects • A Plan B Professional Portfolio • Oral defense of the Plan B Professional Portfolio