



Early Childhood Education Diploma

Inspiring Learning and Creativity

A three-semester program with two post-diploma specialty options.

What makes Early Childhood Education at TRU a different kind of learning experience?

- Full-time and part-time options to suit your needs and learning style
- Innovative practicum model
- Knowledgeable, experienced and friendly faculty
- Access to student awards and bursary programs
- Dedicated classroom space (AE 300 and AE 304)
- Small class sizes, close connections to faculty and a focus on student success
- Earn your ECE Diploma in 3 semesters
- TRU ECE graduates are respected (and hired!) in the community
- ECE graduates can ladder into a TRU degree; shorter path to B.Ed degree

Program Description

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) program at TRU provides exemplary models of innovative practice and opportunities for classroom-based research so that students can acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to become effective educators of young children.

Graduates find rewarding jobs in group child care centres, pre-schools, family child care programs and other child care facilities. This is a rapidly expanding field as many parents realize the benefits of some form of pre-school education for their children. Many families today also find they need some form of supplementary childcare services, which are dependable both in continuity and quality.

"TRU Early Childhood Education students become valued employees ... The high standards set by the program are clearly evident as students work toward completing their practicum placements. Upon completion of their courses, and as employees, we find the competencies and quality of the students from TRU to be above average in the early childhood experiences and in-depth relationships they bring to our children and centre." - Quote from a Director of a Kamloops non-profit Child Care Society.

Admission Requirements

Educational Requirements

- BC Grade 12 OR Mature Student Status
- BC English 12 or First Peoples 12 - 73% on the combined English 12 and Government Exam (within the last 5 years)
 - OR Level 4 on the Language Proficiency Index (LPI) Exam (within the last 2 years),
 - OR English 0600 with a B- or better
 - OR English 1100 with a C+ or better

Additional Specific Requirements

- A completed ECE information form
- Two completed ECE reference forms
- 50 hours of volunteer and/or work experience in a licensed group full day or half day program and under the supervision of a licensed Early Childhood Educator
- Food Safe Certificate
- Valid First Aid Certificate
- Attend an Applicant Readiness Interview with the ECE faculty

Students must hold a valid first aid certificate required by the Ministry of Health which must provide specific instruction for children and infants. An approved first aid course is a minimum of 8 hours long and is offered by one of the following agencies: Canadian Ski Patrol; The Lifesaving Society; The Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation; St. John Ambulance of Canada; or Canadian Red Cross

Health and Safety Requirements

Students that have met all educational and specific requirements will be requested to complete the following after acceptance:

- Submit a completed health questionnaire and immunization record
- Submit a completed Criminal Records Review Clearance form to ECE Field Education Coordinator

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE PROGRAM WEBSITE: www.tru.ca/hse/programs/ece

Program Requirements: Schedule of Courses – Full-time Diploma

Year 1: Fall Semester (September – December)

ECED 1200	Practicum 1 (L)	4 credits
ECED 1320	Child Guidance (L)	3
ECED 1340	Interpersonal Relations – Communications	3
ECED 1350	Introduction to Program Planning (L)	3
PSYC 2130	Introduction to Developmental Psychology I	3

Year 1: Winter Semester (January – April)

ECED 1300	Practicum 2 (L)	4
ECED 1330	Child Health	3
ECED 1360	Curriculum Development (L)	3
ECED 1440	Interpersonal Relations – Helping Interactions	3
PSYC 2230	Introduction to Developmental Psychology II	3

Year 2: Fall Semester (September – December)

ECED 2200	Practicum 3 – Demonstration Practicum (L)	5
ECED 2350	Advanced Program Development (L)	3
ECED 2440	Interpersonal Relations – Working with Families	3
ECED 2490	Administration of ECE Programs	3
ENGL 1100	Composition	3

Students graduate with their Early Childhood Education Diploma after three semesters

4th Semester (January – April)

Special Needs Educator Post-Diploma Certificate

Semester 4 (January - April) 2014 and Alternate Years

Graduates of the ECE program may want to continue their studies so they can work with children with special needs. NOTE: Students not having obtained an ECE Certificate/Diploma from TRU may be required to take a 1st year University Level (3 credit) English if Official Transcripts indicate the course or equivalent has not been completed.

The Special Needs Educator post diploma certificate provides ECE graduates with the opportunity to continue their studies with a focus on children with individual differences. Areas of learning include: child development, supporting children's social skills, programming for individual children, critical reflection, working with a team of educators and other professionals to facilitate inclusion, the ECE's professional role, and skills to support families. Students have the opportunity to connect theory and practice in practicum.

Special Needs Post-Diploma Course Requirements		Credits
ECED 2300	Practicum - Individual Children (L)	5
ECED 2310	Child Growth and Development - Individual Differences (L)	3
ECED 2550	Programming for Individual Children (L)	3
CMNS 2290	Professional Business and Technical Writing	3

Note: Completion of ECED 2300, 2310, 2550, 2440 & 2490 meets the Ministry requirements for a Special Needs license to practice.

Completion of the above courses plus a second level English meets the TRU requirements for a Special Needs Post-Diploma Certificate. Students can enrol in the English at a later date if desired.

Infant/Toddler Educator Post-Diploma Certificate

Semester 4 (January - April) 2015 and Alternate Years

Graduates of the ECE program may want to continue their studies so they can work with infants and toddlers. NOTE: Students not having obtained an ECE Certificate/Diploma from TRU may be required to take a 1st year University Level (3 credit) English if Official Transcripts indicate the course or equivalent has not been completed.

The Infant and Toddler Educator post diploma certificate provides ECE graduates with the advanced skills and knowledge to work with children under the age of three. Areas of learning include: infant and toddler development, critical reflection, creating developmentally appropriate learning experiences for infants and toddlers, the ECE's professional role, and skills to support families. Students have the opportunity to connect theory and practice in two practica.

Infant/Toddler Post-Diploma Course Requirements		Credits
ECED 2400	Practicum - Infant and Toddler (L)	4
ECED 2410	Development and Care of Infants and Toddlers (L)	3
ECED 2450	Program Development - Infants and Toddlers (L)	3
CMNS 2290	Professional Business and Technical Writing	3

Note: Completion of ECED 2400, 2410, 2450, 2440 & 2490 meets the Ministry requirements for an Infant/Toddler license to practice. Completion of the above courses plus a second level English meets the TRU requirements for an Infant/Toddler Post-Diploma Certificate. Students can enrol in the English at a later date if desired.

Early Childhood Education: Government Regulations

Licensing

Completion of the ECE Diploma satisfies the requirements of the Community Care Facilities Branch (CCFB) of the BC Government for a License to Practice as an Early Childhood Educator in British Columbia.

The program does not, by itself, qualify a person to teach in a kindergarten that is part of a public school system. Certified teachers who have completed or are in the process of completing an appropriate degree in Education usually staff public school system kindergartens.

Completion of the post-diploma certificate satisfies the requirements of the Community Care Facilities Branch (CCFB) Services for a Licence to Practice as a Special Needs Educator, and an Infant/Toddler Educator in British Columbia.

Ministry Requirements

The Ministry of Children and Family Development requires 500 hours of work experience under the supervision of a licensed Early Childhood Educator in order to qualify for a Licence to Practice as an Early Childhood Educator. Many of these hours can be completed between the second and third semester as either a volunteer or a paid assistant in an early childhood education setting. For further information about licensing requirements, visit:

<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ece/> or toll-free through Enquiry BC at 1-888-338-6622.

Program Policies

Part time Students: For students wishing to complete the ECE diploma program on a part-time basis, a limited number of spaces are available. Please indicate your interest in this option on your application form.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR): PLAR is a concept that permits the student to earn credit for post-secondary level knowledge regardless of where or how the learning occurred. A student may be assessed for prior learning for some of the courses in the ECE program. Applicants must meet all program prerequisites, and be admitted to the program prior to applying for PLAR. Please see the program chair for more information about PLAR.

Diploma to Degree Options

TRU Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies Degree (BIS)

This two-year degree program is open to both undergraduate university students and diploma graduates. The BIS is a unique program that allows students to design their own curriculum customized to their interests and goals. ECE students interested in entering the Bachelor of Elementary Education (B.Ed) program might consider this option. Consult with the BIS advisor.

BIS Admission of Diploma Graduates: Successful completion of the TRU ECE diploma with one of the post-diploma specialties; (60-90 credits) with a minimum GPA of 2.5.

The admission process is selective. This means all applications will be reviewed, and credits from other institutions will be evaluated for transfer according to established standards determined by appropriate articulation committees, or the Office of the Registrar. Applicants may be requested to attend an interview with members of the BIS Steering Committee.

Visit www.tru.ca/new_students/programs/arts/bis for more information

TRU Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) or Human Service (HUMS) Diploma

Students interested in continuing their education may consider laddering into the Bachelor of Social Work or the Human Service Programs. TRU ECE Diploma graduates may be eligible for block credit into the BSW or HUMS Diploma. Visit www.tru.ca/socialwork for more information.

Approximate Costs: ECE Diploma

The current [2013-14] estimated costs for each full-time semester includes:

- Tuition & Student Fees \$2,400 / semester
- Books and Supplies \$ 800 / semester

Note: These are cost estimates only, and subject to change. A camera is required for some courses. Students are required to pay to have photos printed.

Practica: Students must be prepared to bear the costs of travel to and from practica placements. All attempts will be made to accommodate students without vehicles in practica sites that are accessible by local public transportation.

Early Childhood Education Program Inquiries:

Connie Alger ECE Program Co-ordinator calger@tru.ca 250-377-6087

SOURCE: This information, compiled from several sources, is unofficial and subject to change at any time. The most current TRU Calendar, prior to entry into any program, is the only official source of program admission and course requirement information.