



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

Substantive Program Modification Form

UNIVERSITY:	SDSU
CURRENT PROGRAM DEGREE:	B.S.
CURRENT PROGRAM MAJOR/MINOR:	Early Childhood Education
CURRENT SPECIALIZATION:	Birth to Age 8
CIP CODE:	13.1210
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	School of Education, Counseling and Human Development
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	SECH
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE:	College of Education and Human Sciences
BANNER COLLEGE CODE:	3H

University Approval

To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this proposal, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.

Dennis D. Hedge

Vice President of Academic Affairs or
President of the University

2/13/2025

Date

1. This modification addresses a change in:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total credits required within the discipline | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total credits of supportive course work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Total credits of elective course work | <input type="checkbox"/> Total credits required for program |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program name | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing specialization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CIP Code | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Academic Requirements |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modification requiring Board of Regents approval | |

Must have prior approval from Executive Director or designee

2. Effective date of change: 2025-2026 Academic Year

3. Program Degree Level:

Associate Bachelor's Master's Doctoral

4. Category:

Certificate Specialization Minor Major

5. If a name change is proposed, the change will occur:

- On the effective date for all students
- On the effective date for students new to the program (enrolled students will graduate from existing program)

Proposed new name: Early Childhood Education – Birth to Grade 3 (B.S.)

6. Is the program being modified associated with a current articulation agreement?

Yes No

a. If yes, will the articulation agreement need to be updated with the partner

institution following the approve of the program change? Please explain:

7. Primary Aspects of the Modification:

Existing Curriculum

Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)

Prof.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.	Prof.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.
System General Education Requirements			31	System General Education Requirements			31
System General Education Requirements - Electives			6	System General Education Requirements - Electives			18
						SGR #1 Written Communication	3
						SGR #1 Written Communication	3
		SGR #2 Oral Communication	3			SGR #2 Oral Communication	3
						SGR #3 Social Sciences	3
		SGR #4 Arts and Humanities	3			SGR #4 Arts and Humanities	3
						SGR #5 Mathematics	3
System General Education Requirements - Required			25	System General Education Requirements - Required			13
ENGL	101	Composition I (SGR #1)	3	ENGL	101	Composition I (SGR #1)	3
ENGL	201	Composition II (SGR #1)	3	ENGL	201	Composition II (SGR #1)	3
HDFS	210	Lifespan Development (SGR #3)	3	HDFS	210	Lifespan Development (SGR #3)	3
PSYC	101	General Psychology (SGR #3)	3	PSYC	101	General Psychology (SGR #3)	3
ENGL	240	Juvenile Literature (SGR #4) OR SGR #4 Modern Language Elective	3	ENGL	240	Juvenile Literature (SGR #4) OR SGR #4 Modern Language Elective	3
MATH	103	Mathematical Reasoning (3) or higher (SGR #5)	3	MATH	103	Mathematical Reasoning (3) or higher (SGR #5)	3
BIOL	101	Biology Survey I (SGR #6)	2	BIOL	101	Biology Survey I (SGR #6)	2
BIOL	101L	Biology Survey I Lab (SGR #6)	1	BIOL	101L	Biology Survey I Lab (SGR #6)	1
GEOG AND GEOG OR GEOG AND GEOG	131 131L 132 132L	Physical Geography: Weather & Climate (4) Physical Geography: Weather & Climate Lab (0) Physical Geography: Natural Landscapes (4) Physical Geography: Natural Landscapes Lab (0)	4	GEOG AND GEOG OR GEOG AND GEOG	131 131L 132 132L	Physical Geography: Weather & Climate (3) Physical Geography: Weather & Climate Lab (1) Physical Geography: Natural Landscapes (3) Physical Geography: Natural Landscapes Lab (1)	4
EHS College Requirements			4	EHS College Requirements			4
EHS	119	First Year Seminar	2	EHS	119	First Year Seminar	2
EHS	319	Life, Love, and Money	2	EHS	319	Life, Love, and Money	2
Major Requirements			60	Major Requirements			85
ECE	150	Early Experience	1	ECE	150	Early Experience	1
ECE	150L	Early Experience Lab	1	ECE	150L	Early Experience Lab	1
ECE	196	Field Experience	1	ECE	196	Field Experience	1
ECE	240	Child Development I: Prenatal to 2	3	ECE	240	Child Development I: Prenatal to 2	3
ECE	241	Child Development II: 3 to 8 Years	3	ECE	241	Child Development II: 3 to 8 Years	3
ECE	320	Pedagogy and Curriculum	3	ECE	320	Pedagogy and Curriculum	3
ECE	320L	Pedagogy and Curriculum Lab	1	ECE	320L	Pedagogy and Curriculum Lab	1
ECE	321	Learner Centered Assessment	3	ECE	321	Learner Centered Assessment	3
ECE	322	Contemporary Curriculum Perspectives	3	ECE	322	Arts, Health, and Technology in ECE	3
ECE	325	Inclusion and the Diverse Learner	3	ECE	325	Inclusion and the Diverse Learner	3
ECE	455	Administration and Supervision of Early Childhood Setting	3	ECE	355	Administration and Supervision of Early Childhood Setting	3
ECE	360	Play and Inquiry	3	ECE	360	Play and Inquiry	3
ECE	360L	Play and Inquiry Lab	1	ECE	360L	Play and Inquiry Lab	1
ECE	475	Pedagogy and Guidance in ECE	3	ECE	375	Guidance in ECE	3
				ECE	400	Science, Social Studies, and Math in ECE	3
ECE	412	Kindergarten Education	2	ECE	412	Kindergarten Education	2
ECE	441	Professional Issues in ECE	2	ECE	441	Professional Issues in ECE	2
ECE	470	Early Childhood Inclusion Strategies	3	ECE	470	Early Childhood Inclusion Strategies	3
ECE	471	Foundations of Reading	3	ECE	471	Foundations of Reading	3
ECE	488	Student Teaching (6 credits required Pre-K, 10 credits required K-3)	16	ECE	488	Student Teaching (6 credits required Pre-K, 11 credits required K-3)	17
ECE	495	Practicum	2	ECE	495	Practicum	1
				EDFN	102	Introduction to Education	3

Existing Curriculum

Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)

Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.	Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.
				EDFN	461	Cultural and Psychological Perspectives in the Acquisition of English as a Second Language	3
				SPED	100	Introduction to Persons with Exceptionalities	3
Supporting Coursework			25-26	Supporting Coursework			-
AIS	211	South Dakota American Indian Culture and Education	3	AIS	211	South Dakota American Indian Culture and Education	3
ECE	466	Literacy in ECE	3	ECE	466	Literacy in ECE	3
EDFN	475	Human Relations	3	EDFN	475	Human Relations	3
EPSY	201	The Science of Learning	3	EPSY	201	The Science of Learning	3
HDFS	241	Family Relations	3	HDFS	241	Family Relations	3
MATH	245	Mathematics for Primary Grades I	3	MATH	245	Mathematics for Primary Grades I	3
MATH	345	Mathematics for Primary Grades II	3	MATH	345	Mathematics for Primary Grades II	3
MATH	345L	Mathematics for Primary Grades II Lab	1	MATH	345L	Mathematics for Primary Grades II Lab	1
CHEM AND CHEM OR PHYS AND PHYS OR PHYS AND PHYS OR PHYS AND PHYS OR PHYS AND PHYS	106	Chemistry Survey (3)	3-4	CHEM AND CHEM OR PHYS AND PHYS OR PHYS AND PHYS OR PHYS AND PHYS	106	Chemistry Survey & Lab (3)	3
	106L	Chemistry Survey Lab (1)			106L	Chemistry Survey Lab (1)	
	101	Survey of Physics (3)			101	Survey of Physics (3)	
	101L	Survey of Physics Lab (1)			101L	Survey of Physics Lab (1)	
	185	Solar System Astronomy (2)			185	Solar System Astronomy (2)	
	185L	Solar System Astronomy Lab (1)			185L	Solar System Astronomy Lab (1)	
	216	Physical Science for Early Childhood (2)			216	Physical Science for Early Childhood (2)	
	216L	Physical Science for Early Childhood Lab (1)			216L	Physical Science for Early Childhood Lab (1)	
Electives			0	Electives			0
Summary of Credits Early Childhood Education – Birth to Grade 3 (B.S.)							
System General Education Requirements			31	System General Education Requirements			31
EHS College Requirements			4	EHS College Requirements			4
Major Requirements			60	Major Requirements			85
Supporting Coursework			25-26	Supporting Coursework			-
Electives			0	Electives			0
Total number of hours required for specialization			111-112	Total number of hours required for major			102
Total number of hours required for degree			120	Total number of hours required for degree			120

Academic Requirements*Current:*

- A grade of “C” or better is required in CMST 101, ENGL 101, PSYC 101, and MATH 103 or higher (if these courses are in your plan of study), and all courses for the major (classes with department/program prefix).
- An overall GPA of 2.5 is required to enroll in any education courses.

Proposed:

- A grade of “C” or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, ELED, ECE, EPSY, or SPED prefixes).
- An overall GPA of 2.5 is required.
- A GPA of 2.7 is required in both major and education courses.

Acceptance into Teacher Education

- A grade of “C” or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, ELED, ECE, EPSY, or SPED prefixes).
- An overall GPA of 2.5 is required.
- A GPA in the academic major of 2.6 is required.
- Completion of program application and professional licensure location form.

Acceptance into Residency I

- A grade of “C” or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, ELED, ECE, EPSY, or SPED prefixes).
- An overall GPA of 2.5 is required.
- A GPA of 2.7 is required in both major and education courses.
- The teacher candidate must take the Praxis content exam.
- The teacher candidate is also required to complete a criminal background check with field placements, a TB test with negative reading, and CPR and first aid certification.

Acceptance into Residency II

- A grade of “C” or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, ELED, ECE, EPSY, or SPED prefixes).
- An overall GPA of 2.5 is required.
- A GPA of 2.7 is required in both major and education courses.
- The teacher candidate must take the Praxis PLT exam.
- Content methods instructor recommendation is required.

8. Explanation of the Change:

SDSU currently offers the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, and students in this program are required to graduate with a specialization. Last year, SDSU received approval from the SDBOR to terminate the specialization for the Cooperative Elementary Education Program with DSU. At present, the only specialization available within the Early Childhood Education major is Birth to Age 8. The School of Education, Counseling, and Human Development has requested to discontinue the Birth to Age 8 specialization and instead offer a standalone major titled “Early Childhood Education – Birth to Grade 3.”

In August 2024, the SDBOR approved the Gateway to Teacher Education Certificate. This 12-credit certificate provides a jumpstart for South Dakota high school students with a career interest in PK-12 teacher education and provides knowledge about teacher education degree programs within South Dakota Regental Institutions. In addition to six credits towards their general education requirements, students will complete EDFN 102 Introduction to Teaching (3 cr.) and SPED 100 Introduction to Persons with Exceptionalities (3 cr.). The certificate is intended to be stackable with elementary, secondary, and special education programs. The Early Childhood Education - Birth to Grade 3 curriculum and student learning outcomes for the program were evaluated by faculty to determine curricular adjustments that needed to be made to support the addition of six credits for the Gateway to Education Certificate. Key changes include:

- Added EDFN 102 Introduction to Education (3 cr.) and SPED 100 Introduction to Persons with Exceptionalities (3 cr.) to align with the Gateway to Education Certificate.
- Removed ECE 150-150L Early Experience and Lab (1, 1 cr.) and EDFN 475 Human Relations (3 cr.) from the program requirements. Course content for ECE 150-150L and EDFN 475 is integrated into other existing courses.
- Reduced ECE 495 Practicum from 2 to 1 credit, as faculty determined that 1 credit is sufficient to meet the desired SLOs.

In addition, the faculty reviewed and revised other sections of the curriculum. These revisions are intended to streamline the curriculum while maintaining alignment with accreditation standards and student learning outcomes.

- Replaced HDFS 241 Family Relations (3 cr.) with EDFN 461 Cultural and Psychological Perspectives in the Acquisition of English as a Second Language (3 cr.), providing more targeted coursework for teaching English Language Learners.
- Replaced EPSY 201 The Science of Learning (3 cr.) and MATH 345L Mathematics for Primary Grades II Lab (1 cr.) with ECE 400 Science, Social Studies, and Math in ECE (3 cr.). ECE 400 is an inquiry-based science, social studies, and math methods course that will explore teaching methods for birth to grade 3. Currently ECE 322 Contemporary Curriculum

in ECE covers both social studies and science, but due to the requirements of the Praxis certification exam, students need more in-depth coverage of these subjects to do well in those areas. ECE 322 teaches several other topics and content, not giving adequate time and information to students in both science and social studies. In addition, because the ECE program believes in using an inquiry-based philosophical approach as well as integrated forms of curriculum, it was clear that math methods should also be included so that STEAM and STEM could be addressed within this course as critical topics in today's classrooms and beyond.

- Removed CHEM 106-106L Chemistry Survey and Lab (3, 1 cr.), PHYS 101-101L Survey of Physics and Lab (3, 1 credits), and PHYS 185-185L Solar System Astronomy and Lab (2, 1 cr.) to require all ECE majors will complete PHYS 216-216L Physical Science for Early Childhood and Lab (2, 1 cr.).
- Increased ECE 488 Student Teaching (K-3rd grade) from 10 to 11 credits to provide students with additional time for planning, reflection, and participation in a professional learning community.
- Removed a specific course from SGR #1, SGR #3, and SGR #5 to allow students more flexibility in meeting their System General Education requirements.
- Minor changes in course titles and numbers for ECE 322 Contemporary Curriculum Perspectives, ECE 455 Administration and Supervision of Early Childhood Settings, and ECE 475 Pedagogy and Guidance in ECE have been modified with minor changes to their titles and/or course numbers.

Changes to academic requirements stem from changes to state level certification requirements. Language has been updated to reflect how students in teacher education programs progress through their program requirements toward graduation.

For substantial modifications requiring Board approval, complete the items below.

References to external sources should be documented with a footnote (including web addresses where applicable).

9. Date of approval from the Executive Director or designee.

TBD

10. Identify the program modification requested.

The School of Education, Counseling and Human Development has requested to update the existing Early Childhood Education (B.S.) - Birth to Age 8 Specialization. The changes requested include:

- 1) Discontinue the Birth to Age 8 Specialization [SBS.ECE-B8] and offer a standalone major titled "Early Childhood Education - Birth to Grade 3."
- 2) Revise the program's requirements to include coursework from the Gateway to Teacher Education Certificate, along with other necessary curriculum updates identified through a comprehensive program review, analysis of the Praxis certification exams, and feedback from alumni and the advisory group.

11. Provide justification for the desired modification.

SDSU currently offers the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, and students in this program are required to graduate with a specialization. Last year, SDSU received approval from the SDBOR to terminate the specialization for the Cooperative Elementary Education Program

with DSU. At present, the only specialization available within the Early Childhood Education major is Birth to Age 8. The School of Education, Counseling, and Human Development has requested to discontinue the Birth to Age 8 specialization and instead offer a standalone major titled “Early Childhood Education - Birth to Grade 3.” The proposed change from a specialization to a standalone major will enhance both student understanding and the visibility of the program, making it easier for students to navigate their academic and career goals while retaining the rigor and outcomes of the current program.

The Early Childhood Education - Birth to Grade 3 curriculum and student learning outcomes for the program were evaluated by faculty to determine curricular adjustments that needed to be made to support the addition of six credits for the Gateway to Education Certificate and streamline the curriculum while maintaining alignment with accreditation standards and student learning outcomes. Key changes include:

- Added EDFN 102 Introduction to Education (3 cr.) and SPED 100 Introduction to Persons with Exceptionalities (3 cr.) to align with the Gateway to Education Certificate.
- Removed ECE 150-150L Early Experience and Lab (1, 1 cr.) and EDFN 475 Human Relations (3 cr.) from the program requirements. Course content for ECE 150-150L and EDFN 475 is integrated into other existing courses.
- Reduced ECE 495 Practicum from 2 to 1 credit, as faculty determined that 1 credit is sufficient to meet the desired SLOs.
- Replaced HDFS 241 Family Relations (3 cr.) with EDFN 461 Cultural and Psychological Perspectives in the Acquisition of English as a Second Language (3 cr.), providing more targeted coursework for teaching English Language Learners.
- Replaced EPSY 201 The Science of Learning (3 cr.) and MATH 345L Mathematics for Primary Grades II Lab (1 cr.) with ECE 400 Science, Social Studies, and Math in ECE (3 cr.). ECE 400 is an inquiry-based science, social studies, and math methods course that will explore teaching methods for birth to grade 3. Currently ECE 322 Contemporary Curriculum in ECE covers both social studies and science, but due to the requirements of the Praxis certification exam, students need more in-depth coverage of these subjects to do well in those areas. ECE 322 teaches several other topics and content, not giving adequate time and information to students in both science and social studies. In addition, because the ECE program believes in using an inquiry-based philosophical approach as well as integrated forms of curriculum, it was clear that math methods should also be included so that STEAM and STEM could be addressed within this course as critical topics in today’s classrooms and beyond.
- Removed CHEM 106-106L Chemistry Survey and Lab (3, 1 cr.), PHYS 101-101L Survey of Physics and Lab (3, 1 credits), and PHYS 185-185L Solar System Astronomy and Lab (2, 1 cr.) to require all ECE majors will complete PHYS 216-216L Physical Science for Early Childhood and Lab (2, 1 cr.).
- Increased ECE 488 Student Teaching (K-3rd grade) from 10 to 11 credits to provide students with additional time for planning, reflection, and participation in a professional learning community.
- Removed a specific course, PYSC 101 General Psychology (3 cr.), from SGR #3 to allow students more flexibility in meeting their System General Education requirements.
- Minor changes in course titles and numbers for ECE 322 Contemporary Curriculum Perspectives, ECE 455 Administration and Supervision of Early Childhood Settings, and ECE 475 Pedagogy and Guidance in ECE have been modified with minor changes to their titles and/or course numbers.

12. Would the requested modification require a change to the catalog description and/or the program learning outcomes? If so, describe.

Yes, the catalog description would need to reflect the change in program name. The student learning outcomes will remain the same.

13. Indicate the number of students currently enrolled in the program.

66 students

14. Describe the real impact to students.

In the past, students graduating from the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program were required to choose between two specializations: Birth to Age 8 or Cooperative Elementary Education Program with DSU. However, the Cooperative Elementary Education Program with DSU was terminated last year to be effective fall 2025. To eliminate confusion about the specific major students are earning, the program has decided to transition to a standalone major titled Early Childhood Education - Birth to Grade 3. This change will provide clearer guidance for students, ensuring they understand that the major is designed to meet the certification requirements for teaching and caring for children from birth through third grade.

15. Describe the real impact to the university.

The change from a Birth to Age 8 specialization to a standalone major will provide transparency to potential students considering early education and teacher certification within those ages and grades as a potential career choice.

16. Describe any cost associated with the program modification.

Beyond initial updates of marketing material, there are not any additional costs that the school foresees with this program modification.

17. Describe any risks and unintended consequences associated with the program modification.

No risks or unintended consequences are anticipated by changing this from a specialization to a standalone major.

18. Would this modification be effective for current and future students, or only students who enroll following the change?

This modification will be effective for new students in the 2025-2026 academic catalog. Following SDBOR Policy 2.6.2 existing students may elect a catalog of graduation that is later than their initial catalog.