

Early Childhood Education

CERTIFICATE OR DIPLOMA

Why study Early Childhood Education (ECE)?

The first five years of a child's life are the most formative and highly important to their development. The needs of preschool children, which once received little attention from educators and society, have now become a top priority. You've always loved kids and think a career working with young children is ideal for you. This field can be a fun way to earn a living.

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WHAT TYPE OF CAREER CAN I EXPECT?

Your career in ECE will give you a chance to fill a meaningful and fulfilling role in society. Your job prospects after completing this program are excellent. More than 90 per cent of our graduates find work in daycare, parent cooperative preschools, nursery schools, special needs centres, the public school system, and infant/toddler centres. Recent shifts in society mean the childhood education field is growing, and new centres for the care of children less than three years old have led to an increase in infant and toddler care jobs. There are also career options with community service organizations, the Ministry for Children and Family Development, hospitals, the public school system, parks and recreation departments, and many private sector possibilities.



“The small class sizes are excellent for individual learning and UFV is very accommodating to returning students who want to achieve their educational goals while working.”

— DARCIE DOERFLING,
ECE grad 2006.

Early Childhood Education



“I am currently employed as a support worker and I love my job. UFV is a great university because it provides quality education and the instructors and staff are friendly and well trained. It also has great educational and job resources. I can’t thank UFV enough.”

— MONICA DE ROO, ECE diploma, 2005.

WHY IS UFV A GOOD CHOICE?

You have a life and we recognize that. At UFV you have options that help you balance your life with your education and career ambitions. You can personalize your education to meet your needs and earn the ECE certificate and the ECE diploma. As a UFV student, you can take our ECE certificate program and if you want to continue your studies, you can earn your ECE diploma with a choice of two specialty options that cover special needs and infancy. Diploma courses can be taken in the evenings (except for the practicum). This will give you the option of completing it on a full- or part-time basis. As a graduate of the certificate or diploma program, you can then “ladder” into UFV’s Child and Youth Care bachelor’s degree program.

The provincial publication *Competencies in Early Childhood Education* is available in the UFV bookstore and library and is recommended reading if you’re thinking of taking this program. Our ECE program meets the licensing requirements of the Provincial Community Care Facilities Licensing Board and is based on the provincial curriculum.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET IN?

To study full time, you must be at least 19 years of age and be able to provide your own transportation to field sites. When you apply, you’ll be asked to complete the Composition Placement Test and must achieve a score of at least 48, or have at least a grade of C in a post-secondary English or Communications course, or satisfy the UFV English proficiency test. You’ll then be asked to attend an orientation meeting and interview with faculty.

CAN I GET ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE GAINED IN MY LIFE SO FAR?

Yes. UFV offers Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), a flexible assessment process that evaluates your experiential learning (what you already know and can do) for post-secondary credit. Experiential learning includes independent study, volunteer activities, non-credit courses, workplace learning, and military service. To find out more, check out the PLAR website at www.ufv.ca/plar or contact Susan Brown, Assessment Services Coordinator, PLAR at 604.851.6342 or susan.brown@ufv.ca.

ANYTHING ELSE?

As you will eventually be working with young children, it is strongly recommended that you have a current first aid certificate and updated Rubella and TB clearance. A criminal record check is mandatory before you begin your practicum. After completing this program, with an additional 500 hours of supervised work and a first aid certificate, you can be licensed as an early childhood educator by the Provincial Licensing Board.

WHAT TYPE OF COURSES CAN I EXPECT TO TAKE?

If you're completing the ECE certificate, UFV offers classes at both the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses. Intakes are either in September or January. It's best to contact the department directly at 604-854-4580 to determine when the next program begins.

You might want to complete CMNS 155 and HSER 120 before entering the program, or take these courses in your first semester.

About half of your program time will be spent working in early childhood centres in the community.

COURSE #	TITLE
ECE 100	Human Development
ECE 101	Introduction to Early Childhood Education
ECE 102	Introduction to Early Childhood Programming
ECE 103	Introduction to Observing and Recording Behaviour in Young Children
CMNS 155	Communications for Human Services
HSER 120	Introduction to Interpersonal Communications

COURSE #	TITLE
ECE 120	Human Development II
ECE 122	Introductory Practicum
ECE 123	Art in ECE
ECE 124	Music in ECE
ECE 125	Early Childhood Programs

COURSE #	TITLE
ECE 130	Presenting Literature to Children
ECE 132	Nutrition, Health, and Safety
ECE 133	Advanced Practicum
ECE 135	The Process of Curriculum Development

Once you graduate with an ECE certificate you can then, if you choose, take advanced courses in more specialized areas. Two ECE program options — Infancy and Special Needs — share common core courses. Completion of the core and one set of specialty courses will lead to certification as a special needs or infancy supervisor. These courses can be taken on a part-time basis if you choose.

CORE DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

COURSE #	TITLE
ECE 213	Atypical Development
ECE 223	Administration of Childhood Centres
ECE 224	Working with Families

SPECIAL NEEDS SPECIALTY

COURSE #	TITLE
ECE 242	Practicum: Special Needs
ECE 260	Foundations of Working with Exceptional Children
ECE 281	Programming for Exceptional Children

INFANCY SPECIALTY

COURSE #	TITLE
ECE 243	Practicum: Infancy
ECE 269	Foundations of Infant Caregiving
ECE 282	Programming for Infants

I'M INTERESTED. WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

Check out UFV's online calendar at www.ufv.ca/calendar. Be sure to review the section about our ECE programs carefully and then complete your Application for Admission form. You can also visit www.ufv.ca/ece to access the quicklinks to the download centre. Once your application is complete, submit it by mail or in person to any UFV Admissions and Records office, or transmit it through the internet at www.pas.bc.ca. The application fee is \$45.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

It's best to read the calendar at www.ufv.ca/calendar for specific tuition fees, but you should be prepared to spend about \$800 each semester on books and supplies. Books and additional supplies are about \$100 per course. It's a good idea to visit UFV's Financial Aid and Awards office for information about the \$12 million in federal and provincial student loans, grants, bursaries, scholarships awarded to UFV students annually. A helpful budget planning worksheet is available online at www.ufv.ca/fineaid/budget.

WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE IS THERE TO HELP ME ADJUST?

Please visit www.ufv.ca/student-services to learn about the broad range of services designed to help you learn about and adjust to the university environment.

SOUNDS GOOD. WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

Apply right away. UFV's ECE program has cohorts in Abbotsford and Chilliwack that run on a continuous basis throughout the year. It's best to begin the application process immediately, and contact the ECE department at 604-854-4580 to determine the next application deadline.

CAN I SPEAK WITH SOMEONE ABOUT MY OPTIONS?

Absolutely, we'd love to hear from you. If you're unsure of your direction, contact Student Services at 1-888-504-7441 to arrange a tour, attend a Becoming a Student info session, connect with an educational advisor, or arrange for career counselling. Also, feel free to contact our Early Childhood Education department at 604-854-4580 to speak with someone who can answer more of your questions.



The information contained in this document is subject to change. Please refer to www.ufv.ca/ece for up-to-date information. UFV reserves the right to cancel courses and programs.



About UFV

Nestled in the beautiful Fraser Valley just east of Vancouver, in B.C., UFV is a fully accredited, public university that enrolls more than 11,000 students each year. UFV has campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission and regional centres in Hope and Agassiz, and a growing presence in Chandigarh, India.

UFV is committed to exceptional post-secondary instruction and a nurturing learning environment. We are large enough to offer variety, yet small enough to offer the personal attention that our students need to thrive. Our small class sizes and focus on teaching allow our students to get to know their instructors and learn in a hands-on setting.

We offer more than 80 programs, including 13 bachelor's degrees, a master's degree, and more than a dozen trades and technology programs. We believe that anyone who wants to go to university should be given the chance, so our admission policies are flexible, and we provide university prep courses and high school completion options. There are many options for learning: full-time, in class, online, as part of a structured program or one tailored specifically to your interests.

Many of our programs "ladder" into one another, allowing students to keep their options open. Our international programming makes for a culturally diverse student body and great opportunities to study abroad, while our continuing studies offerings make learning a lifelong experience.

UFV is recognized nationally for student success, an excellent learning environment, creative integration of programming, and our work with our local communities.

Get to know us better at www.ufv.ca.

