

BACHELOR OF ARTS MAJOR IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION 2012-13

The Early Childhood Education major offers a unique contemplative approach for those who love working with young children. Learning to nurture and guide the natural unfolding of young children begins by developing mindfulness and genuineness within ourselves. Personal authenticity and respect fosters care and teaching that awakens a broad spectrum of intelligence and creativity within children. From this place of inner knowledge, our studies of child development, teaching methods, and advocacy become personally meaningful to our own emerging teaching practice.

Program Description

The major in Early Childhood Education emphasizes personal, observation-based study of child development and diverse learning and teaching styles. The process of personal awakening, integration, and effective teaching begins with mindfulness and awareness practices such as meditation, space awareness, and traditional arts. Such practices draw their inspiration and wisdom from the Buddhist and Shambhala traditions. Once the journey toward compassionate teaching has begun, the student explores contemplative teaching skills drawn from holistic and spiritual traditions such as Waldorf and Montessori. Teaching skills grow from firsthand observation practice and course study with master teachers in a variety of contemplative preschool settings. Other studies involve experiential anatomy of early movement, contemplative teaching methods, and current issues in education. The faculty mentors each student during the internship so that students' personal educational journey and developing teaching methods are synchronized with their unique, emerging teaching style.

Internship

The culmination of the major is the internship program, in which students apprentice with experienced teachers in Naropa's lab school or other early childhood programs. This highly individualized on-the-job training helps students develop and refine their teaching skills in exemplary, contemplative educational environments.

Alaya Preschool

Throughout the students' educational journeys, they work closely with the children, teachers, and administrators at Naropa's Alaya Preschool, which has been providing contemplative early education for more than twenty-five years. This opportunity to learn and practice contemplative education firsthand is a powerful and effective addition to the students' development as teachers. Many graduates now work as teachers at Alaya.

Requirements for the Major in Early Childhood Education

The major in Early Childhood Education requires entering students to have already completed 30 credits of undergraduate course work, either through Naropa's undergraduate program or lower-division course work at another institution. To graduate from the program, a student needs to complete 36 semester credits of course work in the major, fulfill general education requirements, and take additional elective credits, to reach a total of 120 credits upon graduation. Some Early Childhood Education courses have a meditation practice requirement.

BA in Early Childhood Education Requirements*

Prerequisite

EDU245 Education, Culture, and Critical Pedagogy (3)

Required Courses

EDU200	Foundations of Contemplative Education† (3)
EDU310	Kindergarten Magic (3) (offered twice every three years)
EDU330	Holistic and Contemplative Teaching Traditions† (3)
EDU360	Administration of Early Childhood Care and Education Programs (3) (offered alternate years)
EDU365	Administration: Human Relations for Early Childhood Professions (3) (offered alternate years)
EDU380	Observing Early Development I (3) (offered alternate years)
EDU385	Observing Early Development II (3) (offered alternate years)
EDU404	Maitri and Learning Styles† (3)
EDU420	Energy and Expression in the Classroom (3) (offered twice every three years)
EDU430	Teaching Young Children (3) (offered twice every three years)
EDU450	Supervised Teaching Practicum† (3)
SUBTOTAL	33

Choose one elective:

EDU352	Poverty Matters (3)
EDU393	Issues in Education: The Mary Culkin Series (3) (offered alternate years)

SUBTOTAL 3

TOTAL CREDITS 36

**This fact sheet describes the 2011-12 curriculum for the major in Early Childhood Education. Naropa University faculty and staff are committed to regular review and revision of the curriculum, to reflect new findings and understandings in the field, feedback from alumni and the professional community, and faculty expertise. Please inquire with the Office of Admissions and/or the Department of Natural and Social Sciences for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

†This course has a meditation requirement.

Professional Status of Program Graduates

The major in Early Childhood Education qualifies one as an early childhood teacher with Group Leader Qualification and a director's certification, with approval by the School of Social Services in the state of Colorado. These Colorado credentials transfer readily to other states. Those interested in a contemplative approach to teaching other grade levels have found this program extremely useful both personally and professionally. Naropa University now offers an alternative licensure program for those who want to pursue public education.

Minor in Early Childhood Education

Choose four courses from the following:

EDU310	Kindergarten Magic (3)
EDU352	Poverty Matters (3)
EDU380	Observing Early Development I (3)
EDU385	Observing Early Development II (3)

- EDU393 Issues in Education: The Mary Culkin Series (3)
(offered alternate years)
- EDU430 Teaching Young Children (3)

TOTAL CREDITS 12

Minor in Contemplative Education

- EDU200 Foundations of Contemplative Education (3)
- EDU245 Education, Culture and Critical Pedagogy (3)
- EDU330 Holistic and Contemplative Teaching Traditions (3)
- EDU404 Maitri and Learning Styles (3)

TOTAL CREDITS 12

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Certificate Program

A one-year certificate program in ECE is available. The certificate in Early Childhood Education is not a teaching certificate, but is designed for those who wish to immerse themselves in a contemplative education program for one year.

Careers of Program Graduates

More than 80 percent of our graduates go on to work in the ECE profession. Some go on to pursue graduate degrees, while others open their own schools. Here is a sampling of the careers of our graduates.

- Owner and director of private contemplative K-8 school, Boulder, Colorado
- Owner and director of Waldorf-inspired preschool, Boulder, Colorado
- Graduate student in social work, Michigan
- Graduate student in special education, California
- Early educator and midwife, Colorado
- Lead teacher in bilingual preschool, Boulder, Colorado
- Lead teacher in charter school kindergarten, New Mexico
- Lead teacher in contemplative preschool, Boulder, Colorado
- Preschool director and teacher, Crested Butte, Colorado
- Waldorf preschool teacher and musician, Lyons, Colorado
- Montessori preschool teacher, Boulder, Colorado
- Preschool teacher, Frisco, Colorado

Early Childhood Education Ranked Faculty

Richard C. Brown

BA, Knox College; graduate study, Earlham School of Religion; elementary teaching certificate, University of Denver; MA, The Naropa Institute.

Richard Brown practiced educational therapy and taught early elementary grades in public schools for many years. He was a teacher for seven years at The Vidya School, a contemplative elementary/middle school. Since 1983 he has taught contemplative education courses at Naropa. He was chair of the BA in Early Childhood Education program from 1990 to 2011. In addition, Richard is involved with rites of passage and parenting programs.

Lee Worley

BA, Mount Holyoke College; MA, The Naropa Institute.

Lee was a founding faculty at Naropa University, where she developed the Theater Studies BA. She was also instrumental in creating the Interdisciplinary BA and the MA in Contemplative Education. She is one of a very few holders of the Mudra Space Awareness lineage—a performance training derived from Tibetan Yoga. She was a founding member, actress and teacher in Joseph Chaikin's Open Theater and is a senior student of Tibetan Buddhism. Her book, *Coming from Nothing: The Sacred Art of Acting*, outlines her contemplative acting method.

Deborah Young, PhD

BA/BFA/BS, University of Colorado; MA, University of Colorado; PhD, University of Colorado.

Deborah Young has taught in numerous settings ranging from preschool through high school and co-founded and directed a private service learning-based middle school for many years. She has co-founded, facilitated, or designed three preschool initiatives in Boulder, CO, and two charter school programs in Routt County, CO, and she has worked throughout Central America on various community-based educational projects. Currently, in addition to administering her nonprofit organization

serving Nicaragua, she serves as education coach and trainer with the Colorado Department of Education.

Adjunct Faculty

Michele Blumberg, Michael Girodo, Gene Hooley, Mary Lanza, Darlene Lorrain, Laurene Phillips, Alexandra Shenpen, Genet Simone, Mindy Upton

Declaring a Major in Early Childhood Education

Most students enter Naropa University as first-year students and declare a major after completing 30 credits. In addition to adhering to university requirements and deadlines, the major in Early Childhood Education requires

- a meeting with the department;
- successful completion of EDU245, Education, Culture, and Critical Pedagogy.

BA in Early Childhood Education

Admission Requirements

Campus Tours

Prospective students are strongly encouraged to visit Naropa University. There are events scheduled every fall and spring for prospective students. Visit www.naropa.edu/admissions/ugrad_events.cfm for more information. The visitation coordinator will be happy to arrange for you to meet with an admissions counselor or a member of our faculty, visit a class or take a campus tour. Arapahoe Campus tours are offered Monday through Friday at 2 p.m. in the main lobby of the Administration Building. The visitation coordinator can be contacted at 303-546-3548 or 1-800-772-6951 (within North America) or by email at admissionsevents@naropa.edu. You can also use the online Visitation Request form or you may view our campus from the online tour.

Priority Deadlines

Naropa University uses a rolling admission policy. Applicants may apply as early as September for summer and fall admission. Applications received between September 1 and the priority deadline will be given equal consideration. Applications received after the priority deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

- January 15 for fall semester admission
- October 15 for spring semester admission

Please contact the Office of Admissions at 303-546-3572 or 1-800-772-6951 (within North America) for more information.

Application Requirements

There are three ways of applying to Naropa University:

1. Apply online at www.naropa.edu/apply or www.commonapp.org.
2. Download the Naropa undergraduate application form at www.naropa.edu/ugradapply.
3. Request that an application be sent to you in the mail.

To apply for admission to the Early Childhood Education major, the following is required:

1. Parts A and B of application form.
2. \$50 nonrefundable fee in the form of a check or money order, payable to "Naropa University." Applicant's name must be clearly indicated on the check.
3. Part C of the application form—three essays (all must be typed).
4. Official college transcript for every university attended (must be sent in a sealed envelope from the registrar), showing proof of 30 semester credits.
5. Letter of recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor. If you have been out of school for more than three years, please request a letter of recommendation from a supervisor. This letter must be on or attached to the form provided.
6. A phone or in-person interview.

If you have fewer than 30 semester credits, you must apply to Naropa University as an undeclared student. See www.naropa.edu/ugradapply for specific admission requirements. If you have 30 or more semester credits, you may apply directly to the major.