



Early Childhood Mental Health Professional Certificate Program

The University of Wyoming College of Education and Outreach Credit Programs, a division of the Outreach School, offer an interdisciplinary Early Childhood Mental Health Professional Certificate Program that provides career development for professionals working with children as health, mental health, educational or social service providers.

Why should I receive this training?

This certificate program offers unique, up-to-date information on early childhood mental health and educational service provision including:

- Relationship-based interventions supporting early childhood development;
- Early childhood social/emotional assessment and diagnosis according to the DC0-3R and DSM-IV;
- Effective functional goal development and intervention planning for children with social/emotional delays;
- Multidisciplinary and collaborative intervention methodologies;
- Strategies for working with sensory processing challenges and children with autistic disorders;
- Touchpoints[®] practices for supporting professionals and parents;
- Principles and practices of the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics[®];

How is the program organized?

The program is organized with working professionals in mind. Instructors use readings from current literature on early childhood mental health and a variety of presentation methods, including in-depth case analysis, lecture, video, and participant presentations. The focus is on practical knowledge. To earn the certificate, participants will:

- Complete coursework totaling 10 semester hours during two consecutive semesters (fall, spring). Each semester, participants will register for one four-credit course that meets once a month for an intensive weekend in Casper, and an additional one-credit course of reflective consultation that meets via the Internet one hour once per week.
- Complete 100 hours of practicum experience (50 hours per semester) working with children 0-5 and their caregivers;
- Complete an assessment project in the fall semester, and a final project in the spring semester that integrates class content and demonstrates new skills.
- Engage in 20 hours (10 hours per semester) of reflective consultation outside of class time.

Program Requirements

Applicants must have a practice-granting level degree in a field closely associated with early childhood *and* at least one year experience working with young children.

- Education professionals will need a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or elementary education;
- Mental health professionals will need a graduate degree in their field (counseling, social work, clinical psychology, etc.)
- Other professionals who work with young children (nurses, physical/occupational therapists, etc.) are also strongly encouraged to apply.

More About the Program

Through a public-private partnership, Child Development Services of Wyoming (a membership organization of the state's privately operated developmental preschools) and the Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Division established an early childhood mental health system in the state. This system promotes positive social and emotional development through early childhood programs and offers mental health services to infants, preschoolers and their families.

The University of Wyoming developed the interdisciplinary Early Childhood Mental Health Professional Certificate Program. This program trains participants to help young children and their families develop healthy relationships, maximize developmental potential, and resolve social/emotional/behavioral difficulties. The focus of the course is increasing students' understanding of the theory, practices, and intervention strategies for work with young children and their families.

**This program is made possible by the generous support of the Ellbogen Fund for Excellence in Early Childhood Education.*

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the Summer Institute on Early Childhood Development presented by the University of Wyoming and Wyoming Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health with the support of the Ellbogen Fund for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. More information on the institute will be announced soon.

The program begins fall 2010. Applications will be accepted until the program is filled. Application review begins May 3, 2010.

Space is limited, so apply today!

For more information on the program or to apply for the program, contact:

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