Early Childhood Concentration Distance Education Student Information

The information below is of special interest to those students who are following the Early Childhood Concentration in the Birth-Kindergarten Program at WCU.

BIRTH-KINDERGARTEN STUDENT SUPPORT SITE-This site in the Blackboard portal provides valuable information for all BK Distance Education students. It is the main communication venue between students and BK Program faculty and staff and it is critical to your education to check this site frequently. Students use it to receive important BK Program notices and updates, check specific area requirements and post questions to other students, instructors and advisors.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONCENTRATION CHECKLIST-The Early Childhood Concentration Checklist and Course Rotation List are found on the BK SSC Home Page in the folder entitled “Forms, Checklists and Course Rotation List”. Students can monitor their own course of study plan using this checklist along with their Degree Audit found in MyCat. The checklist includes the Core BK and BKSE (special education courses), courses specifically related to the EC Concentration and Action Research Courses. Students are also expected to complete 15 hours of Elective courses and there is a place to indicate these on the checklist as well. Most students who transfer from a community college will have met the requirements for electives but should check with their advisor to be sure. Using the Checklist, Course Rotation List and Course Schedule provided each semester students can plan the pace of their own course of study. Once students are assigned a BK advisor, they should also consult with the advisor.

LIBERAL STUDIES/UGETC Courses-Usually these courses are completed at a NC community college and transferred as a block into a student’s WCU BK Program. For more information, check the “Liberal Studies/UGETC Information” folder on the BK SSC Home Page.

ACTION RESEARCH-Students must complete all Liberal Studies/UGETC prerequisite BK core and concentration coursework before they can participate in the Early Childhood Concentration Action Research Courses, Action Research I and II (BK 457 & BK 458). *Please note, when registering for Action Research courses, students will need an override in order to register for these courses.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS-

- Birth-Kindergarten Majors must earn a C or above in all BK and BKSE courses required in the major.
- Birth-Kindergarten Majors must maintain an overall Grade Point Average of 2.75 or better to enroll in all BK Major courses.
- The requirements for continuing in the program are 1) a GPA of at least 2.75; 2) behavior which adheres to the code of ethics of the profession and the North Carolina BK Standards; and 3) satisfactory participation in the required professional field experiences, which are a prerequisite to internship.

NOTE: Many BK and BKSE courses have some level of field experiences that require additional time beyond class meetings and assignments. Consider time for field experiences when planning your schedule.