

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies
Named Exit Awards	DipHE Early Childhood Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 112 UCAS tariff points (or above); BBC (A Level) DMM (BTEC) • Plus: GCSE grade A-C in English (or equivalent) or new GCSE grade 4-9 • DBS check
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk at West Suffolk College
UCAS Code	X346

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2021-22 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

Early Childhood Studies is now a well-established discipline with a strong reputation. The course's central focus is on young children from birth to eight years and includes interesting and varied modules, which characterise its multi-disciplinary approach. Students study child health, early years education, safeguarding, social policy related to children and families, psychology, sociology, research and other related disciplines over the duration of the programme. This holistic approach will provides students with the opportunity to consider and evaluate different perspectives whilst developing their knowledge and critical skills. Many of our students wish to progress onto primary teacher training upon completion of their degree and are very successful at doing so. However, for students who may still be undecided about

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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their career but know that they would like to work with children and families this course is also ideal due to its multi-disciplinary nature.

Course Aims

- To develop understanding of the conceptual underpinnings of Early Childhood Studies as a subject area
- To develop systematic knowledge and critical understanding of early childhood from differing perspectives and disciplines
- To encourage development of generic skills/transferable skills of value in employment, further study and personal development

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. systematic knowledge and critical understanding of key aspects of early childhood (subject specific skills)
2. a well-developed ability to reflect on a range of perspectives in relation to early childhood (philosophical, historical, psychological, sociological, educational, cultural and health, welfare, legal, political and economic) (subject specific skills)
3. an enhanced ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry (cognitive skills)
4. an in-depth conceptual understanding that enables the student to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of the discipline (knowledge and understanding skills)
5. a well-developed ability to apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding (knowledge and understanding skills)
6. the ability to communicate effectively information, ideas, problems and solutions in a variety of appropriate forms (cognitive skills / generic skills)
7. the generic skills/ transferable skills necessary to exercise initiative, personal responsibility, decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts, and to work collaboratively with others (generic skills)

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- QAA (2014) Early Childhood Studies Subject Benchmarks (typical standard)
- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, (August 2008)

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Health in the Early Years	20	Requisite
	Sociology of Early Childhood	20	Mandatory
	Developmental Psychology	20	Mandatory
	Early Childhood Education	20	Requisite
	Children and Social Policy	20	Requisite
	Foundations of Study and Research	20	Requisite
Level 5			
	Safeguarding Children	20	Mandatory
	Research Methods in Early Childhood	20	Mandatory
	Children's Geographies	20	Requisite
	Play and Learning	20	Requisite
	Social Psychology and Children	20	Requisite
	Children's Rights and Citizenship	20	Optional
	Early Years Practice	20	Optional
Level 6			
	Dissertation	40	Mandatory
	Early Childhood Interventions	20	Requisite
	Young Children's Cultural Worlds	20	Requisite
	Leadership and Management in Early Years Contexts	20	Requisite
	International and Comparative Education	20	Requisite

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA Honours in Early Childhood Studies. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Early Childhood Studies on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at West Suffolk College. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies are likely to have approximately 216 contact hours for level 4, 216 contact hours for level 5 and 190 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of e.g. lecture, seminar, group work etc. Students who take the Early Years Practice module will

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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also be required to participate in 50 hours of work placement. Placements can be arranged by West Suffolk College, or if students prefer they may find their own placement. Students will normally be expected to undertake a considerable number of hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately 85% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals, activity plans and analysis of observations of children), and 15% examinations.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£12,150 per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,025 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students are likely to incur other costs e.g. books, printing, car parking amounting to approximately £150 per year. Costs will be higher if students wish to purchase a laptop to use during the duration of their studies.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).