The Early Childhood Education Program is designed to provide a comprehensive contemporary program of teacher preparation and education in early childhood settings (day care, preschool education, community education programs and intervention programs). In the Early Childhood Education Program, students gain knowledge and skills for a variety of careers in educational and intervention programs for young children. Undergraduate courses will have practicum components which give them the opportunities to develop skills presented in their classes. Undergraduate students will complete their practica and student teaching in three settings—infants and toddlers, kindergarten, and first and second grade. Graduate students complete their student teaching in two settings—pre-kindergarten or kindergarten and first or second grade. These environments must include typically developing children and those with special needs. Early Childhood educators are unique people. They address the development of all children; they can observe the world through a child’s eye and learn to meet the needs of all individual children. Doing so is a challenging and rewarding job and helps contribute to the child’s potential growth and development.

THE CURRICULUM

The Department of Educational & Clinical Studies offers an Early Childhood Education Program at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. The program focuses on teaching (atypical and typical developing) children from birth to eight years of age. A semester of student teaching is required. At the graduate level, the department offers programs that provide students with an understanding of diverse delivery systems for young children and their families. Graduates of the program will be able to: (1) design learning environments that reflect an understanding of the role of developmentally appropriate practices; (2) design learning environments/practices that reflect an awareness of the essential need for individualization in both curricular content and instructional strategy; (3) design learning environments that recognize the essential role of families in the education of children; (4) demonstrate the ability to articulate a rationale for inclusive education, supporting statements with research results/legal citation; (5) select/design appropriate assessment tools for the individual determination of instructional goals and objectives, and to monitor program effectiveness through measures of child achievement, family satisfaction and self-assessment of teacher performance, and; (6) demonstrate awareness of the importance of strategies for creating collaborative relationships among diverse groups of individuals significant to the education of young.
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the many teaching positions available for graduates in early childhood education, job openings exist in hospitals, recreation programs, as administrators/directors of early childhood programs, as consultants to child care providers, as community college instructors in early childhood education, as community child care coordinators, and as educational coordinators of early childhood education programs.

“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” - Henry Adams

FACILITIES AND FACULTY

Faculty members and graduate assistants have come to UNLV from the most respected institutions of higher learning in the United States. The faculty are active in research and publication in the field of early childhood education and development. Each faculty member is dedicated to helping students develop into capable and productive individuals. The program also provides special research, services, and professional preparation programs through the Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center and the Clark County School District.

THE UNLV CAMPUS

UNLV is committed to academic excellence in each of its more than 200 undergraduate and graduate programs. Following a decade of unprecedented growth in enrollment and facilities, the campus is now focusing its resources on those qualities which make a university great: its academic offerings, its faculty, and its students. All academic programs at UNLV are fully accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

UNLV is located on a 332-acre main campus and two satellite campuses in dynamic Southern Nevada. The university is classified in the category of Research Universities (high research activity) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

ABOUT UNLV:
Student Enrollment: 27,000+
Degree Programs: Over 200
Undergraduate, Master’s, and Doctoral
Student to Faculty Ratio: 21:1

MORE INFORMATION:
Department of Educational & Clinical Studies
4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 453014
Las Vegas, NV 89154-3014
Phone: (702) 895-3205