## CHILD DEVELOPMENT (45 clock hours)

- Child growth and development theories, methods of research and effects on child care and education
- Domains (social, emotional, physical, cognitive and aesthetic) and stages of development
- Links between development and learning
- Methods of observing child behavior and progress
- Theories of guidance and discipline
- Positive child guidance strategies that promote pro-social behavior
- Research in early brain development
- Character development as it relates to behavior and management
- Appropriate supervision for age/level of development
- Documentation of growth and learning

CURRICULUM (30 clock hours)

- Significance of play, emergent curriculum in learning and development
- Developmentally appropriate practices that focus on children's needs/interests, and consider culturally valued content and home experiences
- Learning experiences that help children develop emerging intellectual curiosity, problem solving and decision making skills, and critical thinking
- Integrating learning experiences with curriculum theories & current research
- Design, implementation & evaluation of child care and education programs
- Use of informal and formal assessments to plan activities, individualize programs, and improve program quality
- Planning and implementation of appropriate environments for children which facilitate development in all domains
- Design of new environments or modification of existing ones that nurture and educate children and meet state regulatory requirements
- Appropriate equipment and materials for outdoor and indoor learning spaces
- Appropriate supervision for all children's activities
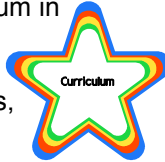
HEALTH, SAFETY AND NUTRITION (20 clock hours)

- Health issues and nutrition for children
- Implementation of safety management practices
- Issues affecting the health & safety of children
- Illness prevention
- Health record keeping and policy considerations
- Abuse, neglect and injurious treatment
- Practices and procedures for sanitation

＊First Aid/CPR may **not** be counted toward this area

PROFESSIONALISM (15 clock hours)

- Historical and philosophical foundations of early care and education
- Diversity of child care programs
- Current issues, trends, research, and opportunities in the child care field
- Self-awareness and assessment
- Personal philosophical perspective as a basis for making professional decisions
- Ethics and professional behavior
- Mentorship
- Collaborative process
- Advocacy for children and child care programs
- Awareness of professional organizations, licensing and credentialing processes, education, community resources
- Child care facility and daily operations
- Financial planning and management
- Staff/program development, supervision, and evaluation
- Leadership, team building, and conflict resolution
- Child care policies, licensing regulations, legal and advocacy issues
- Determining community child care needs, marketing, public relations
- The value of developing policies

SPECIAL NEEDS (15 clock hours)

- Developmentally appropriate practices for children with varying developmental, emotional, cognitive, language and/or physical needs
- Understanding the special needs of all children
- Effective partnerships w/parents, families, and others
- Inclusionary practices
- Design of accessible learning environments
- Theoretical and legal foundations for special programs
- Special populations and medical implications

COMMUNITY (10 clock hours)

- Supportive and effective communication skills
- Dynamics, roles and relationships among children, families, and child care professionals
- Community resources that support children & families
- Sociology of children and families
- Parent participation in child care/education programs
- Recognition of diversity in society
- Benefits and process of collaborations