

NON-DEGREE ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM IN PRESCHOOL - GRADE 3 **Leading to NJ Preschool-Grade 3 Certification**

- I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** This 24-credit endorsement in Preschool-Grade 3 is available to individuals who hold a Standard Instructional Certificate or Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) in the state of New Jersey. Students already enrolled in a degree program at the GSE, who already possess a Standard or CEAS or are currently working toward initial teacher certification, may complete the endorsement program in conjunction with their degree program. In addition, non-degree-seeking students may complete the program on a non-matriculated basis (see below for more information about this option).

The program has three goals: (1) to prepare early childhood professionals to work in diverse settings with an understanding of the contexts in which children grow and develop; (2) to prepare teachers who are knowledgeable about children's learning and their physical, cognitive, social and emotional development; and (3) to foster an understanding of a variety of ways in which early childhood programs can be delivered to support the foundations of discipline-based knowledge in literacy, mathematics, science, and art.

- II. APPLICATION DEADLINES:** No admit decisions can be processed less than two weeks before the beginning of the semester in which the program would be started. Applications must be submitted and completed at least two weeks before the beginning of the semester.
- III. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:** To be considered for admission to the program, applicants must provide all of the following:
1. A photocopy of a New Jersey Standard Instructional Certificate or a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS).
 2. Official academic transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies. Applicants are not usually admitted with a GPA of less than 2.75 in their most recent degree.

Only complete applications will be reviewed.

IV. HOW TO APPLY:

1. **Current GSE Students:** All applicants who are **currently** enrolled in a GSE program and wish to begin the endorsement program while continuing their current program should contact the GSE Office of Student and Academic Services (OSAS) at academic.services@gse.rutgers.edu.
2. **Non-GSE Students:** Applicants who are **not current** GSE students apply online at the Graduate Admissions website: <http://gradstudy.rutgers.edu/>
 - a. Click on "Apply Now" and follow the instructions given.
 - b. Choose "Non-Degree Application", for Application Type.
 - c. For Program Name choose "**Professional Credit Programs**" from the drop down menu. (Scroll down past all the Education programs.)
 - d. Scroll down; across from "Education: Preschool-Grade 3 Certification 150002", click the link for the semester you want to apply for.
 - e. Select "No" for Full-time Study.
 - f. Complete the application by providing the requested information.

- g. Supporting materials must be submitted online or mailed to the Graduate Admissions office at Office of Graduate and Professional Admissions (New Brunswick), Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 56 Bevier Road, ASB Annex I, Piscataway, NJ 08854, U.S.A.
- h. Enter payment information for the non-refundable application fee.
- i. Submit your application and authorize payment for the non-refundable application fee.

Applicants are responsible for reviewing and confirming that they meet program requirements **before** the application is submitted. Rutgers Graduate School of Education **WILL NOT** refund the application fee if an applicant is not accepted.

When the entire application process is complete, students simply register for the courses in the program as described on the program handouts and on the GSE website gse.rutgers.edu. It is the responsibility of the student to enroll in all of the required courses through Rutgers University. **No program requirements may be met at any other institution.** Students are expected to maintain a "B" or better average as a non-degree student. Accepted students will have 5 years to complete the program.

After completing all of the required courses in the program, students should contact the Office of Academic Services at the GSE to notify them and to secure an application for the state endorsement. GSE personnel will then forward the completed application to Trenton along with a recommendation that the certification be awarded.

V. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

| Course Number | Course Name | Credits |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 05:300:304 ^G | Art Across the Curriculum | 3 |
| 05:300:410 ^G | Learning and Development in a Social Context: Preschool and Primary Years | 3 |
| 15:251:574 | Integrated Curriculum with Young Children | 3 |
| 15:251:581 | Early Childhood Curriculum and Assessment | 3 |
| 15:253:540 or 15:255:539 | Teaching English Language Learners or Students, Communities, and Social Justice | 3 |
| 15:295:521* | Child, Family, and Community: Relationships in Development | 3 |
| 15:295:522* | Cognition and Language Birth to Age 8: Normal Development and Implications for Risk and Disability | 3 |
| 15:299:514 | Literacy Development in the Early Years | 3 |
| Total Credits | | 24 |

^G Course must be 300-level or above to count towards graduate credits. 300- and 400-level courses must be registered for with a G-prefix.

* These courses were previously 15:290

VI. PORTFOLIO: Students will be participating in an on-line instructional and evaluation system that will archive artifacts from classes to be specified by the faculty. Students must submit artifacts for this on-line portfolio throughout their program as directed by their program faculty. Details of this portfolio are specified in the *Student Policy and Procedures Handbook*.

VII. HIB TRAINING: All candidates for certification must complete pre-service training in the prevention of harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB).

VIII. PRAXIS II TESTS: Students seeking certification in preschool through grade 3 must pass the Early Childhood: Content Knowledge examination (test code 5025).

IX. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION: No comprehensive examination is required.

X. PROGRAM FACULTY:

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