I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Infant/Early Childhood Specialist Interdisciplinary Studies program is an interdisciplinary graduate studies certificate program to prepare individuals in a variety of disciplines for service delivery or research careers involving infants and young children, including those at risk or those with disabilities, and their families.

Students may enroll in courses while pursuing a master's or doctoral degree program at Rutgers in a relevant field. An Infant/Early Childhood Specialist Interdisciplinary Studies certificate will be issued only to students completing a degree at the time the certificate is awarded. Appropriate master's or doctoral degree programs include educational, developmental, clinical, or school psychology; special education; social work; and early childhood education. Students who wish to receive a certificate must complete and return an application to the Department of Educational Psychology prior to graduation. Upon completing the Ed.M., Psy.D., Ph.D., or Ed.D., students request the award of the certificate from the director of the program.

II. HOW TO APPLY:

1. Current GSE Students: Students who are planning to complete the certificate program and who are either currently enrolled in a degree program, applying for admissions into a graduate degree program, or completing this program on a non-matriculated course-by-course basis, must complete a form and return it to the Educational Psychology Department.

2. Non-GSE Students: Applicants who are not currently enrolled in a graduate program at the Graduate School of Education must first be admitted to the Graduate School of Education either to a degree program or as a non-matriculated student. Applications are submitted online at the Graduate Admissions website: http://gradstudy.rutgers.edu/

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.
III. **PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:** Students must have a good background in child development to begin the sequence. A recent graduate course in child development or permission of the instructor is a prerequisite for enrollment in the IECSIS classes. 15:295:512 Introduction to Child Psychology is offered every semester. Eighteen credits of course work in infant/early childhood studies passed with an average of B or better.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:255:512</td>
<td>Enhancing Learning &amp; Development for Infants &amp; Young Children*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:290:520</td>
<td>Motor, Biological &amp; Neurological Development &amp; Issues in Infancy &amp; Early Childhood</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:290:521</td>
<td>Child, Family and Community: Relationships in Development*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:290:522</td>
<td>Cognition &amp; Language from Birth to Age Eight: Normal Development &amp; Implication of Risk &amp; Disability*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:290:523</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Assessment of Infants &amp; Young Children</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:290:525</td>
<td>Practicum in Applied Infant &amp; Early Childhood Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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II. **Additional Courses**

Other courses focusing on infancy/early childhood may substitute for 6 credits.

A course in multicultural relations which may have been taken as part of earlier graduate or undergraduate studies is required.

III. Students who intend to participate in early intervention or other service delivery systems should:

A. Have applied experience in appropriate settings (the equivalent of two terms of one day per week practicum (15:290:525) in a setting providing services to infants and/or young children and their families; and

B. Complete all required courses, with the exception of those where content repeats prior educational experience.

**Total Credits** 18

* These courses also apply to the Preschool – Grade 3 (P-3) Teacher Education Endorsement Program

VI. **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** Completion of a research or scholarly project related to infants and/or young children and their families, including but not limited to the master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation.

VII. **PROGRAM FACULTY:**

Lorraine McCune

Ed.D., Rutgers University

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