

INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

ASPIRE

EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP

RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR MAJOR

An Inclusive Early Childhood Education degree prepares graduates to teach and support young children of all abilities in inclusive learning environments. Through hands-on field and residency experiences, students develop expertise in child development, family engagement, assessment, and evidence-based practices, preparing them for careers in schools, early intervention programs, and community settings.

THE WHO...

- Helping young children learn and grow
- Advocating for inclusion and equity
- Partnering with families
- Promoting language, literacy, and development
- Building strong foundations for lifelong learning
- Making a difference in schools and communities

THE WHY...

- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Child development expertise
- Inclusive instructional practices
- Family and community engagement
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Critical thinking and problem solving

THE WHAT

- Inclusive Early Childhood Teacher (Birth-Grade 3)
- Preschool Teacher
- Early Intervention Specialist
- Developmental Specialist
- Family Support Coordinator
- Early Childhood Program Coordinator
- Community-Based Early Childhood Professional

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"Inclusive Early Childhood Education taught me that every child deserves opportunities to learn, belong, and succeed. The relationships I built with faculty, families, and young learners shaped me into the educator I am today."

HILLTOP ADVANTAGE

The Hilltop Advantage is a structured program that, through field experiences, residency placements, and faculty mentoring, helps Inclusive Early Childhood Education majors gain the skills and confidence to support all young learners and create inclusive, developmentally appropriate learning environments.

TOP SKILLS

- Child Development
- Inclusive Teaching Practices
- Lesson Planning & Instruction
- Family Engagement
- Classroom Management
- Assessment & Progress Monitoring
- Collaboration & Teamwork
- Behavior Support Strategies
- Advocacy & Leadership

ASPIRE - Experiential Major Map

	FIRST YEAR	MIDDLE YEARS	LAST YEAR	
A ACADEMIC MASTERY	- Explore child development from birth through age 5. - Build foundations in early literacy, language development, mathematics, and inclusive practices. - Complete introductory field experiences in early childhood settings. - Develop an understanding of family engagement and culturally responsive teaching. - Develop a plan for meeting Teacher Education admission requirements. - Develop relationship with faculty advisor - Complete the Mini-Residency Form to Begin Your Field Experience Mini-Residency Form	- Develop evidence-based instructional strategies for young children with and without disabilities. •Complete coursework in assessment, inclusive methods, classroom management, and special education. - Apply developmental and learning theories to practice. - Complete Admission Point requirements and continue field placements. - Successfully complete EDUC 301 and meet all Admission Point 1 requirements for the Teacher Education Program. Admission Point 1 Application	- Demonstrate mastery of planning, assessment, and differentiated instruction in inclusive early childhood settings. - Complete Residency experiences in preschool, pre-K, and primary grade classrooms. - Successfully complete program and licensure requirements. - Prepare for employment and state certification. - Successfully complete Admission Point 3 (Admission to Residency 2) requirements. Admission Point 3 Application	ACADEMIC SUCCESS CHECKLIST - Participate in family engagement activities. - Attend early childhood and special education workshops and conferences. - Explore early intervention and inclusive preschool programs. - Develop a professional teaching portfolio. - Network with professionals in 
S SELF-DISCOVERY & STRENGTHS	- Reflect on your passion for working with young children and families. • Explore advocacy for children with diverse learning needs. • Identify strengths in communication, creativity, and relationship-building.	Develop a personal philosophy of inclusive early childhood education. - Explore interests in early intervention, special education, literacy, and family support services. - Seek mentorship from faculty and practicing professionals.	- Define your professional identity as an inclusive early childhood educator. - Create a career plan focused on teaching, intervention, advocacy, or graduate study. - Reflect on professional growth and readiness to enter the field.	
PI PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION INTEGRATIVE & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING	Observe preschool and early childhood classrooms. - Volunteer with programs serving young children and families. - Begin documenting field experiences and professional growth. - Participate in community engagement activities.	Complete structured field experiences across a variety of inclusive settings. - Design and implement developmentally appropriate lessons. - Integrate technology and assistive supports into instruction. - Complete required field hours and Admission Point requirements. Complete a minimum of 125 field hours and successfully meet all Admission Point 2 (Admission to Residency 1) requirements. Admission Point 2 Application.	Complete Residency placements in inclusive early childhood settings. - Develop a professional portfolio demonstrating competency in NAEYC and special education standards. - Complete performance assessments and licensure requirements. - Obtain residency permit and apply for certification.	
RE RELATIONSHIPS & LEADERSHIP	- Join education-focused student organizations. - Attend campus events and build connections with peers and faculty. - Participate in family engagement and	- Serve as a student leader, mentor, or organization officer. - Participate in service-learning projects supporting children and families. - Collaborate with teachers, therapists,	- Network with school administrators, early intervention professionals, and community agencies. - Successfully complete Admission Point 4 (Completion of Program requirements) Admission Point 4 Application	