

Department of Early Childhood Care & Education

1. About the Department

The Department of Early Childhood Education & Care belongs to Faculty of Health & Welfare Professions (S.E.Y.P) TEI Epirus. The Department originates from Nipiokomon School (P.I.K.P.A), since 1955. The academic year 1984-1985, the Faculty joined the TEI of Messologi as Department of Early Childhood - Ioannina Branch - Presidential Decree no. 462/1984, 166/1984 Government Gazette Vol. A'. In 1994 with Nos. 343 Presidential Decree in Early Childhood Department is part of the TEI of Epirus, which was founded on 31-10-1994.

2. Department's Goals

The Department of Early Childhood Education & Care aims to:

- to promote the development and dissemination of scientific knowledge and applied practices in early childhood care and education;
- to provide their students with the necessary skills to ensure excellent training for scientific and professional careers in ECC&E; and
- to offer a curriculum that is structured properly so that it can provide all the required knowledge and skills regarding the development and care of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Specifically, the goals and objectives of the curriculum are as follows:

- to provide education and care for preschool-age children from 2 months up to entry in primary education (or whatever period is dictated by the state);
- to be able to establish and manage infancy or preschool centers;
- to partake in various professional activities that arise mainly as a result of the changing profession in terms of the expanding field of study as well as socio-economic and political forces;
- to navigate the exercise of the profession in light of various changes at the state and national level;
- to be able to engage in research as team members according to their specialization.

3. Educational Objectives

The undergraduate program in the department of Early Childhood Care and Education is a four-year program for students preparing to work with children, from six months to two years of age, in preschool settings. The program enables students to create and maintain optimal settings in order to help young children to develop optimally to their fullest potential based on the multiple challenges of child development knowledge and its relevance as a determinant of educational objectives and pedagogical practices in early childhood care and education.

The educational objectives of the program are:

1. An understanding of the child's developmental needs and protection procedures
2. An understanding of how developmentally appropriate childhood and childcare practices can influence the child's development
3. An understanding of how practice in childcare and early learning can be informed by theoretical perspectives
4. An understanding of applications of research methods in the context of early care and education, case study and action research approaches, appropriate research design, locating and reviewing literature in appropriate fields, methods of data collection and techniques of analysis and ethics of research in professional context
5. Knowledge of legislation and policy in relation to child services, family and environmental factors and their relationship to meet children's needs and methods of intervention with children and with adults.

4. Professionals Rights

Graduates of Preschool Educational Program acquire the professional adequacy for professional registration in accordance to the Presidential Degree No. 523 FEK 203/24-12-91, Vol. A' as they have been stated Article 25, 1404/1983 (FEK 173).

Especially:

- the design, organization and operation of Nursery Schools,
- the education and care of preschool age children from 2 months to 5 years and
- teaching and implementation of Early Childhood.

Specifically, the graduate of our department, following the 4-years studies, has the right to be occupied in public and private preschool centers or be self-employed in all the spectrum of organization and function of preschool education units. Also they can be employed in research projects aiming at the promotion of Preschool Care and Education science and methodology, carrying out projects with skills in data analysis (qualitative and/or quantitative where appropriate).

Moreover, they can work in partnership with parents, careers and other professionals (including those from different disciplines), planning, providing and managing adult education/parent education workshops, and also communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audience.

5. Curriculum

The Bachelor's program in the Department of Early Childhood Care & Education is comprised of eight (8) semesters of theoretical and practical study.

To graduate, a student must complete a total of 40 courses comprising 240 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) units, including a practicum training course (20 ECTS) and a (mandatory) senior thesis (10 ECTS). Thus, of the total number of courses required for graduation, 36 are mandatory and 4 are electives.

The program of studies for Early Childhood Care & Education aims to accord with the rules and regulations of the Bologna initiative that aim to guide the European and Greek higher education institutions. The curriculum also aims to accord with guidelines for the international associations for Infant Mental Health and with the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

There is some degree of alignment between the predefined goals and objectives of the curriculum and its implementation. The curriculum is implemented through an organization of five categories, which seem to correspond--though not fully--to the ordering of courses over the four years of studies:

1. General background courses (5 mandatory courses; 20% of the total required courses)
2. Courses for the implementation of the profession (4 courses: 2 mandatory & 2 electives; 10% of total courses)
3. Specialized background courses (14 courses: 12 mandatory and 2 electives; 34% of total courses)

4. Specialization courses (16 courses: 14 mandatory courses and 2 electives; 36% of total courses)

6. Partnerships

The Department is working through the Erasmus program with European universities and institutions providing opportunities for students to move to study and practice. Alongside is in constant communication and collaboration through scientific knowledge and research institutions domestically and abroad, to create academic cooperation networks.

7. Research Program

The Early Childhood Education & Care faculty collaborates with local & international Institutions, that have the potential of promising further collaborations.

8. Program of Studies

COURSE		Type	ECTS credits	L	P
1ST SEMESTER					
1	Introduction of Educational Sciences	GC	4,5	3	-
2	Introduction of Early Childhood Care & Education	GC	7,5	3	4
3	Introduction - history in the Greek language	GC	4	3	-
4	Health Education	GC	4	3	-
5	Introduction to Psychology	GC	4,5	3	-
6	Music Education I	GC	5,5	3	2
2nd SEMESTER					
1	Preschool Education	GC	4,5	3	-
2	Education and care of infant I	GC	7,5	3	4
3	Developmental Psychology I	GC	4	3	-
4	Aesthetic Education I	GC	5	2	2
5	Music Education II	GC	5	2	2
6	Neonatology	GC	4	3	-
3rd SEMESTER					
1	Teaching Methods in Preschool Education I	GC	6	3	3
2	Education and care of infant II	GC	7,5	3	4
3	Developmental Psychology II	GC	5,5	4	-
4	Methodology of research	GC	5	3	-
5	First aid in infants	GC	6	4	-

4th SEMESTER					
1	Teaching Methods in Preschool Education II	GC	6	3	3
2	Education and care of toddler I	GC	7	3	4
3	Introduction of Literature for Young Children	GC	5	3	-
4	Ethics in the Profession of Early Childhood Care & Education Teachers	GC	5	2	-
5	Economic data – innovation and Entrepreneurship in Early Childhood	GC	3	2	-
6	Visual Arts Education	GC	4	2	2
5th SEMESTER					
1	Education and care of toddler II	GC	7,5	3	4
2	Physical Education of Pre-school Age	GC	7,5	3	4
3	General Pediatrics	GC	4,5	3	-
4	Clinical Psychology	GC	4,5	3	-
5	Children's Literature	GC	3	2	-
	1 from 2				
6a	Administration and Management of Day Care Centres	SC	3	2	-
6b	Industrial relations	SC	3	2	-
6th SEMESTER					
1	Developmental Pediatrics	GC	6	4	-
2	Intercultural Education	GC	6	5	-
3	Seminar of graduates	GC	7	5	-
4	Psychopathology	GC	5,5	5	-
	1 from 2				
5a	Preschool Education and Computing Studies	SC	5	5	-
5b	Teaching Puppet Show	SC	5	5	-
7th SEMESTER					
1	Contemporary Issues & Orientation in Preschool Education	GC	7	3	3
2	Counseling Psychology	GC	7	4	3
3	Theatrical play	GC	6	4	-
4	Environmental Education	GC	5	3	-
	1 from 2				
5a	Educational Material	SC	5	4	-
5b	Special Education	SC	5	4	-
8ST SEMESTER					
	Bachelor Thesis		10		
	Fieldwork (6 months or 26 weeks)		20		
Key words L = lecture hours per week, P = laboratory, practical hours per week GC = general compulsory course, SC = selected compulsory course,					

The latest external evaluation report of the Hellenic Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (HQA) can be found at the following link:

http://www.adip.gr/external/TEIEpirus_EarlyChildhood_2014.pdf

9. Educational Staff



Vrionis George
Professor of Pediatrics
Dr. University of Ioannina



Geitonas Dimitrios (Department Chair)
Assistant Professor
Educator



Mantziou Stratoula
Professor of Psychology
Dr. Kapodistrian University / University of Athens



Kainourgiou Eleni
Lecturer of Preschool Pedagogics
Dr. Pre-School Pedagogy
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Karavida Vassiliki
Lecturer of Care and Education Infants and Toddlers