

MAJOR IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION BACHELOR OF ARTS 2010–11

The Early Childhood Education major offers a unique contemplative approach for those who love young children. Learning to nurture and guide the natural unfolding of young children begins by developing mindfulness and genuineness within ourselves. Personal authenticity and respect fosters care and teaching that awakens a broad spectrum of intelligence and creativity within children. From this place of inner knowledge, our studies of child development, teaching methods and advocacy become personally meaningful to our own emerging teaching practice.

Program Description

The major in Early Childhood Education emphasizes personal, observation-based child development, and diverse learning and teaching styles. The process of personal awakening, integration and effective teaching begins with mindfulness and awareness practices, such as meditation, space awareness and traditional arts. Such practices draw their inspiration and wisdom from the Buddhist and Shambhala traditions.

Once the journey toward compassionate teaching has begun, the student explores contemplative teaching skills drawn from holistic and spiritual traditions, such as Waldorf and Montessori. Teaching skills grow from firsthand observation practice and course study with master teachers in a variety of contemplative preschool settings. Other studies involve experiential anatomy of early movement, contemplative teaching methods and current issues in education. The faculty mentors each student during the internship so that the students' personal educational journey and developing teaching methods are synchronized with their unique, emerging teaching style.

Internship

The culmination of the major is the internship program in which students apprentice with experienced teachers in Naropa's lab school or other early childhood programs. This highly individualized on-the-job training helps students develop and refine their teaching skills in exemplary, contemplative educational environments.

Alaya Preschool

Throughout the students' educational journeys, they work closely with the children, teachers and administrators at Naropa's Alaya Preschool, which has more than twenty-five years of experience in contemplative early education. This opportunity to learn and practice contemplative education firsthand is a powerful and effective addition to the students' development as teachers. Many graduates now work as teachers at Alaya.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The major in Early Childhood Education requires entering students to have already completed 30 credits of undergraduate course work, either through Naropa's undergraduate program or lower-division course work at another institution. To graduate from the program, a student needs to complete 36 semester credits of course work in the major, fulfill general education requirements and take additional elective credits, to reach a

total of 120 credits upon graduation. Some Early Childhood Education courses have a meditation practice requirement.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS*

Prerequisite

EDU 245 Education, Culture and Critical Pedagogy (3)

Required Courses

EDU 200	Foundations of Contemplative Education† (3)
EDU 310	Kindergarten Magic (3)
EDU 330	Holistic and Contemplative Teaching Traditions† (3)
EDU 360	Administration of Early Childhood Care and Education Programs (3) (offered alternate years)
EDU 365	Administration: Human Relations for Early Childhood Professions (3) (offered alternate years)
EDU 380	Observing Early Development I (3) (offered alternate years)
EDU 385	Observing Early Development II (3) (offered alternate years)
EDU 404	Maitri and Learning Styles† (3)
EDU 420	Energy and Expression in the Classroom (3)
EDU 430	Teaching Young Children (3)
EDU 450	Supervised Teaching Practicum† (3)
SUBTOTAL	33

Choose one elective:

EDU 352	Poverty Matters (3)
EDU 393	Issues in Education: The Mary Culkin Series (3) (offered alternate years)

SUBTOTAL 3

TOTAL CREDITS 36

**This fact sheet describes the 2009–10 curriculum for the major in Early Childhood Education. Naropa University faculty and staff are committed to regular review and revision of the curriculum, to reflect new findings and understandings in the field, feedback from alumni and the professional community, and faculty expertise. Please inquire with the Office of Admissions and/or the Department of Contemplative Education for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

†These courses have a meditation requirement.

Professional Status of Program Graduates

The major in Early Childhood Education qualifies one as an early childhood teacher with Group Leader Qualification and a director's certification, with approval by the Department of Social Services in the state of Colorado. These Colorado credentials transfer readily to other states. Those interested in a contemplative approach to teaching other grade levels have found this program extremely useful both personally and professionally. Naropa University now offers an alternative licensure program for those that want to pursue public education.

Minor in Early Childhood Education

Choose four courses from the following:

EDU 310	Kindergarten Magic (3)
EDU 352	Poverty Matters (3)
EDU 380	Observing Early Development I (3)
EDU 385	Observing Early Development II (3)
EDU 393	Issues in Education: The Mary Culkin Series (3) (offered alternate years)
EDU 430	Teaching Young Children (3)

TOTAL CREDITS 12

Minor in Contemplative Education

EDU 200	Foundations of Contemplative Education (3)
EDU 245	Education, Culture and Critical Pedagogy (3)
EDU 330	Holistic and Contemplative Teaching Traditions (3)
EDU 404	Maitri and Learning Styles (3)

TOTAL CREDITS 12

Early Childhood Education Certificate Program

A one-year certificate program in ECE is available. The certificate in Early Childhood Education is not a teaching certificate, but is designed for those who wish to immerse themselves in a contemplative education program for one year.

Alternative Teacher Licensure Program

The Alternative Teacher Licensure Program (ATLP) is designed as an alternative track to getting teacher certification in the state of Colorado. Certification is available at four levels: early childhood (birth–second grade); elementary (K–5); middle school (6–8); or high school (9–12). To be eligible for the ATLP, you must already possess a bachelor's degree. This program can also be done as part of your master's degree in Contemplative Education on a case-by-case basis.

Naropa University's ATLP is unique in the field and is designed to be a holistic and contemplative-based program that prepares teachers for both the inner and outer challenges of teaching.

There are two starting times: August and January. Participants must have employment guaranteed for one year from entrance into the program.

Candidates for the ATLP are evaluated by the Colorado Department of Education, pass a content exam and then seek full-time employment. Once approved and while seeking employment, candidates then contract with Naropa University to be their agency of choice. Each candidate has a professional support team—a principal; an experienced, licensed mentor teacher; and a coach from Naropa University—to provide instruction, supervision and performance evaluations.

Upon successful completion of the ATLP, the candidate is eligible for a three-year initial teacher license, the standard entry-level license in Colorado.

Sequence of Course Work (August Entrance)

Fall

EDU 560	Jumpstart: Classroom Management Intensive (2)
EDU 570	Teacher Training and Community Building I (2)

SUBTOTAL 4

Spring

EDU 580	Teacher Training and Community Building II (3)
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SUBTOTAL 3

TOTAL CREDITS 7

Sequence of Course Work (January Entrance)

Spring

EDU 580	Teacher Training and Community Building II (3)
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SUBTOTAL 3

Fall

EDU 560	Jumpstart: Classroom Management Intensive (2)
EDU 570	Teacher Training and Community Building I (2)

SUBTOTAL 4

TOTAL CREDITS 7

The program cost is \$5,500, which includes 7 credits of graduate-level course work. For more information, contact Michael Girodo, program administrator, at 303-546-5288 or mgirodo@naropa.edu; or visit www.naropa.edu/spirited.

Careers

More than 80 percent of our graduates go on to work in the early education profession. Some go on to pursue graduate degrees, while others open their own schools. Here is a sampling of the careers of our graduates.

- Owner and director of private contemplative K-8 school, Boulder, Colorado
- Owner and director of Waldorf-inspired preschool, Boulder, Colorado
- Graduate student in social work, Michigan
- Graduate student in special education, California
- Early educator and midwife, Colorado
- Lead teacher in bilingual preschool, Boulder, Colorado
- Lead teacher in charter school kindergarten, New Mexico
- Lead teacher in contemplative preschool, Boulder, Colorado
- Preschool director and teacher, Crested Butte, Colorado
- Waldorf preschool teacher and musician, Lyons, Colorado
- Montessori preschool teacher, Boulder, Colorado
- Preschool teacher, Frisco, Colorado

Contemplative Education Department Ranked Faculty

Richard C. Brown, Co-Chair, Contemplative Education

BA, Knox College; Graduate Study, Earlham School of Religion;

Elementary Teaching Certificate, University of Denver;

MA, The Naropa Institute.

Richard Brown practiced educational therapy and taught early elementary grades in public schools for many years. He was a teacher for seven years at The Vidya School, a contemplative elementary/middle school. Since 1983 he has taught contemplative education courses at Naropa. He has been chair of the BA Early Childhood Education program since 1990. Recently he has also become chair of the Contemplative Education program. In addition, Richard is involved with rites of passage and parenting programs.

Lee Worley

BA, Mount Holyoke College; MA, The Naropa Institute.

Lee was a founding faculty at Naropa University where she developed the Theater Studies BA. She was also instrumental in creating the Interdisciplinary BA and the MA in Contemplative Education. She is one of a very few holders of the Mudra Space Awareness lineage—a performance training derived from Tibetan Yoga. She was a founding member, actress and teacher in Joseph Chaikin's Open Theater and is a senior student of Tibetan Buddhism. Her book, *Coming from Nothing: The Sacred Art of Acting*, outlines her contemplative acting method.

Deborah Young, PhD, Co-Chair, Early Childhood Education
BA/BFA/BS, University of Colorado; MA, University of Colorado;
PhD, University of Colorado.

Deborah Young has taught in numerous settings ranging from preschool through high school, and co-founded and directed a private, service learning-based middle school for many years. She has co-founded, facilitated or designed three preschool initiatives in Boulder, Colorado; two charter school programs in Routt County, Colorado; and has worked throughout Central America on various community-based educational projects. Currently, in addition to administering her nonprofit organization serving Nicaragua, she serves as education coach and trainer with the Colorado Department of Education.

Adjunct Faculty

Michele Blumberg, Michael Girodo, Gene Hooley, Mary Lanza,
Darlene Lorrain, Laurene Phillips, Alexandra Shenpen, Genet Simone,
Mindy Upton

DECLARING A MAJOR IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Most students enter Naropa University as first-year students and declare a major after completing 30 credits. In addition to adhering to university requirements and deadlines, Early Childhood Education requires

- a meeting with the department;
- successful completion of EDU 245, Education, Culture and Critical Pedagogy.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective students are strongly encouraged to visit Naropa University. There are events scheduled every fall and spring for prospective students. Visit www.naropa.edu/admissions/ugrad_events.cfm for more information. The visitation coordinator will be happy to arrange for you to meet with an admissions counselor or a member of our faculty, visit a class or take a campus tour. Arapahoe Campus tours are offered Monday through Friday at 2 p.m. in the main lobby of the Administration Building.

The visitation coordinator can be contacted at 303-546-3548 or 1-800-772-6951 (within North America) or by email at admissions@naropa.edu. You can also use the online Visitation Request form or you may view our campus from the online tour.

There are three ways of applying to Naropa University:

1. Apply online at www.naropa.edu/apply or www.commonapp.org.
2. Download the Naropa undergraduate application form at www.naropa.edu/ugradapply.
3. Request that an application be sent to you in the mail.

Please note that if you are applying as a transfer student directly into a major, that academic department might require a supplemental application. See www.naropa.edu/ugradapply for details.

Suggested Deadlines

Naropa University uses a rolling admission policy. Applicants may apply as early as September for summer and fall admission. Applications received between September 1 and the suggested deadline will be given equal consideration. Applications received after the suggested deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

- January 15 for fall semester admission
- October 15 for spring semester admission

Please contact the Office of Admissions at 303-546-3572 or 1-800-772-6951 (within North America) for more information.

If you have fewer than 30 semester credits, you must apply to Naropa University as an undeclared student. See www.naropa.edu/ugradapply for specific admission requirements. If you have 30 or more semester credits, you may apply directly to the major.

To apply for admission to the Early Childhood Education major, the following is required:

Application Requirements

1. Parts A and B of application form.
2. \$50 nonrefundable fee in the form of a check or money order, payable to "Naropa University." Applicant's name must be clearly indicated on the check.
3. Part C – Three Essays (all must be typed).
4. Official college transcript for every university attended (must be sent in a sealed envelope from the registrar), showing proof of 30 semester credits.
5. Letters of Recommendation: One from a teacher and one from another teacher, counselor or someone who knows the applicant well other than a family member or a current therapist. These must be on the forms provided.
6. A phone or in-person interview.