

Submitting the Graduate Student Portfolio

Departmental mission statement

The Master of Education Early Childhood Emphasis (EC) is designed to improve the competence of teachers who work with young children ages birth through grade three, enabling them to become more effective practitioners, of theory, practice and leadership.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the graduate level, learning refines practice and equips the learner to be experts in the field of early childhood education. Graduate students become more specialized as they combine theory, conduct research and implement practice in new and innovative ways so that they can better inform and impact early childhood education. NAEYC has identified five Core Standards and nine Professional Tools by which students in advanced programs are expected to demonstrate a high level of specialization and professionalism.

Assessment of the Learning Outcomes

Teachers must have a strong integrated understanding of content and pedagogy. Extensive and well-supervised instruction and training has a direct correlation to teacher effectiveness and student achievement. Graduate students must demonstrate with a greater depth of understanding what they teach, how they teach young children and how they evaluate children and their teaching.

Your Graduate Student Portfolio

Using the conceptual framework which is aligned to the NAEYC Standards and Professional Tools, each student will **evaluate** and **demonstrate** their growing level of understanding in the field of early childhood education.

Evaluate

You are responsible for completing the Conceptual Framework Evaluation three times during your course of study at designated “checkpoints.”

#1 Checkpoint: Prior to their first course

#2 Checkpoint: After their first year of study

#3 Checkpoint: At the end of their program

The Conceptual Framework Evaluation Form is posted on Blackboard and should be submitted on Blackboard through the corresponding Assignment Page.

Demonstrate

You are responsible for completing a student narrative prior to the end of each course. The narrative will describe your experience in the course as it relates to the appropriate NAEYC Advanced Standard or Professional Tool. In addition, you will provide the appropriate artifacts from the course to support the narrative.

The Student Narrative form designated for each course is posted on Blackboard and should be submitted on Blackboard through the corresponding Assignment Page.

Student Narratives for the Core Standards are identified on the Assignment Page as Core Standards followed by the course number. Additional instructions relevant to each course narrative are provided on the assignment page as needed.

For example: Core Standard-Educ 501.

Student Narratives for the Professional Tools are identified on the Assignment Page as Professional Tool followed by the course number. Additional instructions relevant to each course narrative are provided on the assignment page as needed.

For example: Professional Tool-Educ 501.