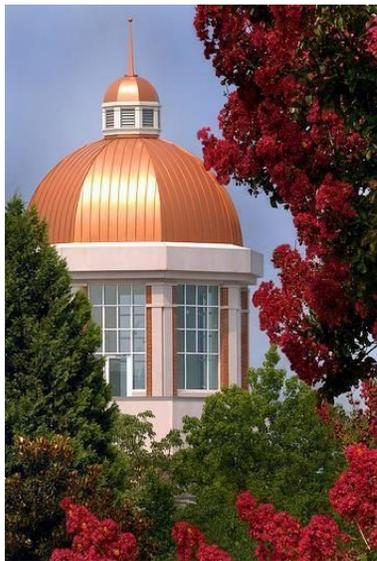




UNC CHARLOTTE

College of Health and Human Services

School of Social Work



Early Childhood Mental Health Certificate Program

Student Handbook

2019 -20

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ECMH Certificate Program Overview

The Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Certificate is an interdisciplinary post-baccalaureate certificate program that addresses the increasing need for mental health services for children birth to five years of age. The certificate program welcomes professionals with an undergraduate or graduate degree in a human services field, including counseling, education, early childhood special education, pediatrics, allied health services (i.e., occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology), psychology, and social work. Individuals who are currently enrolled in a human service-related graduate degree program at UNC Charlotte are also welcome to apply.

The ECMH Certificate is sponsored jointly by UNC Charlotte's School of Social Work and Cato College of Education. The certificate program requires a minimum of 15 graduate credit hours, including four core courses and one elective course.

Educational Objectives

The Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) program focuses on children birth to five years of age and their families. Graduates of the Certificate program will be able to:

- Promote awareness about the importance of early childhood mental health
- Work with diverse families with young children
- Identify evidence-informed services for young children and their families
- Recognize ecologically valid mental health assessments of young children
- Explain relationship of social, cognitive, and communication development in young children
- Support positive, relationship-focused communication between young children and their adult caretakers
- Facilitate positive social-communication skills among young children, parents, and other caretakers in a variety of settings

ECMH Plan of Study

The ECMH Certificate requires 15 graduate credit hours. Students must successfully complete four core courses and one elective course as listed below.

Four Core Courses:

- SOWK 6171 Early Childhood Mental Health (3 credits)
- CHFD 6240 Advanced Studies in Infant and Child Development (3 credits)
- SPED 6242 Enhancing Communication and Supporting Behavior in Inclusive Settings (3 credits)
- SOWK 7127 Advanced Social Work Practice with Families (3 credits)

Select One Elective Course:

- SPED 5112 Authentic Approaches to the Assessment of Young Children with Disabilities: Birth to Kindergarten (3 credits)
- CHFD 6220 Family Theories and Research (3 credits)
- SPED 6350 Young Children w/ Disabilities and their Families: Interdisciplinary Collaboration (3 credits)

Total Program Credits = 15

Academic Advising

ECMH certificate students are assigned an academic advisor who is a faculty member in either the School of Social Work or the Cato College of Education. The primary role of the student's academic advisor in the ECMH certificate program is to assist the student with course selection and the registration process (i.e. - assisting students to obtain permits to enroll in courses).

Graduate School Academic Policies

The information in this section can be found posted on the University website at:

https://catalog.uncc.edu/content.php?catoid=19&navoid=1119#Graduate_Certificate_Requirements. In addition, the Graduate Catalog can be found at: <https://catalog.uncc.edu/index.php>. This handbook contains only a partial listing of academic policies, procedures, and requirements. Students in the ECMH certificate program should refer to the Graduate Catalog for planning their course of study and meeting requirements for graduation. In addition to the catalog, students should also refer to the College of Health and Human Services Student Handbook: <https://health.uncc.edu/sites/health.uncc.edu/files/media/2018-19%20Student%20Handbook.pdf>

Graduate Certificate Requirements

Since the graduate certificate is not a degree, students may apply the credits earned in the certificate program toward a single degree that they pursue either in conjunction with the graduate certificate or after the certificate has been awarded. However, students may not apply credits earned in one certificate program toward the satisfaction of requirements in a second certificate program.

Students may enroll in a graduate certificate program only or may complete the certificate in conjunction with a graduate degree program at the University. Hours taken toward a graduate certificate may be counted toward a graduate degree program with the recommendation of the graduate program coordinator and the approval of the Graduate School.

Graduate certificate programs at UNC Charlotte generally require at least 12 credit hours of graduate coursework. The ECMH certificate requires 15 credit hours. Up to six hours taken at post-baccalaureate status at UNC Charlotte may be applied toward a certificate with the recommendation of the program coordinator and the approval of the Graduate School. Students ordinarily may not transfer hours from another institution into a certificate program. The graduate certificate is awarded to a student who has completed the specified program of study with a GPA of 3.0 or above within four years from the time of enrollment in the first certificate course and has applied to graduate.

Time Limit

No courses older than five years may be applied towards a graduate certificate. Courses that exceed this time limit must be retaken.

Application for Certificate

Students should submit the Online Graduation Application at the beginning of the term in which they anticipate completion of the certificate program. Adherence to Graduate School deadlines

is expected. Students are encouraged to review their individual DegreeWorks audit to ensure they have met all graduation requirements.

Grading Policies and Grade Point Averages

Complete information regarding grading policies, grades, credits, and obtaining transcripts is provided in the "Academic Regulations and Degree Requirements" section of the Graduate School Catalog, available at <http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/catalog>. Grades for graduate students are as follows:

Letter	Meaning	Grade Points
A	Commendable	4
B	Satisfactory	3
C	Marginal	2
U	Unsatisfactory	0
I	Incomplete	
IP	In Progress	
W	Withdrawal	
P	Pass	
NC	No Credit	
AU	Audit	

The grade point average for a graduate student is based only on those courses in his/her approved program of study taken at UNC Charlotte. It is determined by multiplying the number of grade points for each grade (A=4, B=3, C=2, U=0) by the number of semester hours credit received in that course, adding all accumulated grade points together, and then dividing by the total number of semester hours the student has attempted (except those for which the student received a grade of I, IP, W, P, N, AU, or NR).

Grades and Academic Standing

An accumulation of three *final course grades* of C or ANY final course grade of U (Unsatisfactory) will result in suspension from the UNC Charlotte Graduate School. This is Graduate School policy. A graduate student whose enrollment has been suspended or terminated because of grades is ineligible to attend any semester or the summer session in any UNC Charlotte course unless properly reinstated.

Important University Policies

Accommodations for Disabilities

No otherwise qualified student shall, on the basis of disability, be subjected to discrimination or excluded from participation in the ECMH certificate program. A student with a disability may be protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and be eligible for a reasonable accommodation to provide equal opportunity to meet academic criteria for professional behavior and scholastic performance. Any otherwise qualified student with a protected disability who requests a reasonable accommodation must notify the UNC Charlotte Office of Disability Services and provide documentation as needed. The Office of Disability Services will work with the faculty member(s) on how to accommodate the student. If the student has questions about disability-related policy, the Office of Disability website can be found at <http://legal.unc.edu/policies/ps-51.html>. Their office is located at Fretwell 230. The phone number is 704-687-4355.

Code of Student Responsibility and Academic Integrity

Violations of the [Code of Student Responsibility - Policy 406](#) and [The Code of Student Academic Integrity](#) warrant immediate action and are addressed through University procedures. Examples include, but are not limited to, egregious academic dishonesty (as defined by the instructor), sexual misconduct, acts of harm, illicit drug use, and theft. Acts of harm include harassment, intimidation, bullying, and injury. In such cases, the instructor will notify the Program Director immediately. University policies and procedures will be followed. The student's standing in the program may be impacted by the resolution of the case. A temporary *Compliance Plan* may be developed until a resolution is reached at the university level.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte affirms that its educational and employment decisions must be based on the abilities and qualifications of individuals and may not be based on irrelevant factors, including personal characteristics, that have no connection with academic abilities or job performance. Therefore, the University prohibits discrimination and harassment in its educational and employment decisions and provides equal opportunities for all members of the University community and for all those seeking to join the University community.

The following factors may not form the basis for educational or employment-related decisions: race; color; religion, including belief and non-belief; sex, including but not limited to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition, and parenting; sexual orientation; actual or perceived gender identity, including but not limited to gender expression, transition status (including but not limited to physical transition), transgender status, and gender nonconformity; age; national origin; physical or mental disability; political affiliation; veteran status; and genetic information.

In March 2016, the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor Pat McCrory enacted the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act, also known as House Bill 2. This law replaces local nondiscrimination policies with a statewide policy. The University and the School of Social Work appreciate the serious concerns many have regarding this law. We want to assure every current and future member of our community that UNC Charlotte recognizes and values the inherent dignity and worth of each individual student, employee, and visitor.

Gender-Neutral Bathrooms

One of the requirements of the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act is that persons must use the bathroom that reflects the gender on their birth certificate rather than their gender identity. UNC Charlotte will continue to label multiple-occupancy restrooms and changing facilities for single-sex use with appropriate signage. However, in 2014, UNC Charlotte undertook an initiative to provide single-occupancy, gender-neutral restrooms across campus to make selecting a restroom easier for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors, including transgender individuals, families, and individuals with disabilities who may have an attendant. A list of gender-neutral restrooms, along with maps to those restrooms and a list of additional planned restrooms, can be found at the link here. <http://legal.uncc.edu/restrooms>

Sexual Harassment

All students are required to abide by the UNC Charlotte Sexual Harassment Policy (<https://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-502>), including the policy on Responsible Use of University Computing and Electronic Communication Resources (<http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps66.html>). Sexual harassment, as defined in the UNC Charlotte Sexual Harassment Policy, is prohibited, even when carried out through computers or other electronic communications systems, including course-based chat rooms or message boards.

Religious Accommodation

It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a [Request for Religious Accommodation Form](#) to their instructor prior to the census date for enrollment for a given semester <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-134.html>. The census date for each semester (typically the tenth day of instruction) can be found in UNC Charlotte's Academic Calendar (<http://registrar.uncc.edu/calendars/calendar.htm>).

Grievance Procedures

University Student Grievance Procedures can be found at: <https://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-411>. If a student in the ECMH certificate program has a grievance, college policies might also be applicable and can be found in the College of Health and Human Services Student Handbook: <https://health.uncc.edu/sites/health.uncc.edu/files/media/2018-19%20Student%20Handbook.pdf>.

University Supports

In addition to academic advising, the following supports are available to graduate students at UNC Charlotte. Students are welcome to pursue these services at any time.

Center for Graduate Life

Student outreach, engagement and development offered through the Graduate School's Center for Graduate Life, provides the support and sense of community students need to meet the challenges they will face throughout their graduate experience. <https://gradlife.uncc.edu/>

Center for Wellness Promotion

The Center for Wellness Promotion presents a variety of group and campus -wide wellness and prevention activities related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, sexual responsibility, and men's and women's health issues. <http://wellness.uncc.edu/>

Christine F. Price Center for Counseling and Psychological Services

The Counseling Center provides short-term individual and group counseling, psychological assessment, consultation for faculty, staff, parents, and students, and educational programs to the campus community.

<http://counselingcenter.uncc.edu/>

Office of Disability Services (ODS)

If the student has a documented disability and require accommodation in any course, contact Disability Services, Fretwell 230, phone: 704-687-4355 voice/TDD) the first week of the semester. Information about available services may be found at

<http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps51.html>. Accommodations for learning will be arranged by that office and communicated to the Instructor. See the ODS website for more information. <http://ds.uncc.edu/>

Writing Resource Center

Social work relies on well-developed verbal comprehension skills and expressive communication skills. The ECMH curriculum is writing intensive. Most classes have assignments of one major paper and/or several minor papers. Almost all paper assignments require students to use the publication style found in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition (2010). For students who want to improve their writing skills, UNC Charlotte has a Writing Resources Center staffed by graduate writing consultants who work with writers at all stages of the writing process: prewriting, focusing, organizing, revising, and editing. Programs include one-on-one and group consulting; online writing consultants for distance education students; classroom presentations; and library and internet research. *The Writing Resource Center has dedicated hours for graduate students and also makes individual appointments to accommodate student schedules.* Students can find the Writing Resources Center in Cameron Bldg., Room 149. The phone number is 704-687-1899 and email is wrchelp@uncc.edu <http://writing.uncc.edu/writing-resources-center>.