

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NEW MEXICO EARLY CHILDHOOD HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Professional Development Pathway

The New Mexico Early Childhood Higher Education Task Force (NMECHETF) membership body was first established in 1992, as the first statewide early care and education stakeholder group to build a professional development system for providers and educators across the state. A key tenet of the NMECHETF work was ensuring a statewide accreditation and licensure system in early childhood was competency based, universal, and equitably available. As such, the NMECHETF has been positioned to review and approve updates and revisions to both the NM Common Core Competencies and the Early Learning Guidelines in response to state and national initiatives and strategic planning and serves as an expert group for understanding the systemic impact of changes in the early childhood field. Today, the NMECHETF continues to strive to meet its mission “to extend the invitation of dialogue regarding the availability of quality higher education early childhood programs throughout New Mexico for professionals working in early care, early education, and family support in a variety of settings.”

The NMECHETF is providing the following recommendations and requested revisions to the existing Early Childhood Career Pathway Guide. This guide is meant to “better prepare individuals for multiple career options in early childhood” and includes information about the programs that higher education institutions across New Mexico provide in early childhood preparation. Opportunities for NMECHETF members to contribute recommendations and requested changes were made at two monthly meetings. Submission of this document to the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) constitutes completion of Task 1 of the NMECHETF 2023-24 Scope of Work.

Professional Development (PD) Pathways

Timeline

- On August 8, 2023, NMECHETF Leadership asked if its members could contribute updates and changes to the PD Pathways document, to which ECECD approved without a specified timeline.
- On August 24, 2023, NMECHETF Leadership requested all members to review the PD Pathway document in preparation for the September meeting to include, but not limited to, preparation of institutional/organizational updates, changes, and comments for ECECD consideration.
- On September 8, 2023, the 2023-24 NMECHETF Scope of Work was introduced to NMECHETF members, including “Task 1: Recommend updates to the 2022-23 Professional Development Pathway.” Members were asked to provide feedback from all institutions and consider whether accelerated and alternative offerings were appropriately reflected.
- On October 13, 2023, the NMECHETF was given a final opportunity to contribute updates to the PD Pathway document.
- On October 31, 2023, NMECHETF Leadership summarized comments from member emails and meeting minutes for submission to the ECECD.
- Final submission of this recommendation document to ECECD was made November 6, 2023.

Requested Updates

1. Page 5. Practicum classes are listed as four (4) credits in the Program Admin and IFS pathways but should only be two (2) credits.
2. Overall. The following Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) participate in the NMECHETF but are not represented in the PD Pathway document, suggesting those programs are not included: NMSU - Grants; Clovis Community College; Mesalands Community College; Southeast New Mexico College, Navajo Technical Institute. Of note, these institutions did not submit changes directly in response to this call for requested updates and recommendations, but a primary contact is available if ECECD would like to pursue their inclusion.
3. Addition. Eastern New Mexico State University – Ruidoso – Included in Appendix
4. Addition. New Mexico State University – Alamogordo – Included in Appendix
5. Addition. UNM – Gallup - <https://www.gallup.unm.edu/eced/> - Offering a 30-credit ECED Certificate and A.A. in ECE (60 credits) (Institution did not respond to call; known degree program)

6. Addition. UNM Valencia - <https://valencia.unm.edu/academics/catalog/2023-2024/degrees-certificates/early-childhood-multicultural-education.html> - Offering an Academic Certificate and Associate of Arts
7. Revision. Page 12. University of New Mexico. Degree placement and identification updates – Included in Appendix

Recommendations

- A. Include TCU program:
 - a. Statement: Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) were established to fulfill the district higher education needs of Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos. New Mexico is home to three TCUs: Dine College, Navajo Technical University, and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute. Defining features of these institutions include missions closely aligned with the values, lifeways, languages, and cultures of the respective Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos served. TCUs are instrumental in supporting the perpetuation of tribal sovereignty, language and cultures, while meeting the intellectual and workforce needs of Native communities.
 - b. Map: locations of TCU programs
 - c. Special Distinction: Include symbol or recognition on these institutional pages
- B. Page 3. Provide additional context for Child Development Certificate (CDC) requirements, including decisions to require Assessment course, impact on other program alignment (e.g., CDA, AA degrees), and alignment or removal of any related guidance (e.g., previous brochures/communication, application, program offerings).
- B. Page 2, 6. Consider inclusion of “Doctoral Degree.” It is listed under “Master’s Degree” on Page 6, inappropriately, as it is a stand-alone option in the career lattice. It also references a program is 66-72 credit hours, but the pathway document doesn’t include information about any doctoral degrees, creating a gap. For example, the University of New Mexico (Main Campus) has a Ph.D. in Family and Child Studies (81 credits), where students may focus research and interest in early childhood.
- C. Page 1. Programs do not include apprenticeships or district partner teacher residency (House Bill 13).

Appendix

Eastern New Mexico University – Ruidoso Ruidoso

Contact Information:

709 Mechem Drive

Ruidoso, New Mexico 88345

Phone: (575) 315-1120

Website: <https://ruidoso.enmu.edu/>

Certificates:

New Mexico Child Development Certificate

Associate's degree:

Early Care and Education, A.A.

Elementary/Special Education, A.A.

Secondary Education, A.A.

New Mexico State University – Alamogordo (NMSU-A) Alamogordo

Contact Information:

2400 Scenic Drive

Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310

Phone: (575) 439-3789

Website: alamogordo.nmsu.edu

Certificates:

Certificate in Early Childhood Development

Associate degrees:

Associate in Early Childhood Education (online)

University of New Mexico Albuquerque

Contact Information:

1 University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM 87131

Phone: (505) 277-2231

Website: <https://coehs.unm.edu/>

Bachelor's degrees:

- Art Education, B.A. with or without licensure (<https://art.unm.edu/art-education/>)
- Community Health Education, B.S.
- Elementary Education, B.S. Ed.
- Family and Child Studies, Early Childhood Education and Development, B.S.
- Family and Child Studies, Early Childhood Multicultural Education Licensure Pre-K to Grade 3, B.S.
- Family and Child Studies, Human Development and Family Relations, B.S.
- Physical Education, B.S. Ed.
- Special Education, B.S. Ed., Dual License Preparation in Elementary Education and Pre-K–12 Special Education

Graduate Certificates (Post-bac):

- Applied Behavioral Analysis

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Educational Diagnosis
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Master's degrees:

- Art Education, M.A. with or without licensure (<https://art.unm.edu/art-education/>)
- Counseling, M.A.
- Education for Licensed Teachers, M.A.
- Education with a focus on Reflective Practice (MARF), M.A.
- Educational Leadership, M.A.
- Educational Psychology, M.A.
- Family and Child Studies, M.A. (Concentrations: Family Life Education, Human Development and Family Relations, Early Childhood Studies)
- Health Education M.A.
- Language, Literacy, & Sociocultural Studies, M.A. with concentrations in American Indian Education, Bilingual Education, Educational Thought and Sociocultural Studies, Literacy/Language Arts, Social Studies, Teaching English as a Second Language
- Master of Music, concentration in Music Education (<https://music.unm.edu/academics/graduate-degrees/>)
- Physical Education, M.S.
- Special Education, M.A. either Non-License Program or Pre-K–12 Licensure Preparation Program. Concentration I — Intellectual Disability and Severe Disabilities: Studies in Educational Equity for Diverse Exceptional Learners; Concentration II — Learning and Behavioral Exceptionalities: Studies in Instruction, Curriculum, Collaboration and Transition of Diverse Learners

Doctoral degrees:

- Counselor Education, Ph.D.
- Curriculum and Instruction, Ed.S.
- Educational Leadership, Ed.D.
- Educational Leadership, Ed.S.
- Educational Linguistics, Ph.D. in Ed, concentration in Educational Linguistics
- Educational Psychology, Ph.D.
- Family and Child Studies, Ph.D.
- Language, Literacy, & Sociocultural Studies, Ph.D. with areas of focus in Bilingual Education, Educational Thought and Sociocultural Studies, Literacy/Language Arts, Teaching English as a Second Language
- Special Education, Ed.S.
- Special Education, Ph.D.
- Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education, Ed.D., Ph.D.

Additional Offerings:

- Baccalaureate Minor in Music Education (<https://music.unm.edu/academics/undergraduate-degrees/>)
- Certified Family Life Educator (<https://coehs.unm.edu/departments-programs/ifce/family-child-studies/certification.html>)
- Native American Leadership in Education (NALE) (<https://coehs.unm.edu/departments-programs/teelp/education-leadership-program/nale/index.html>)
- Native American Teacher Preparation Pathway (<https://coehs.unm.edu/departments-programs/teelp/native-american-teacher-prep/index.html>)
- Post-Baccalaureate in Art Education with Licensure (<https://art.unm.edu/art-education/>)
- Promoting our Leadership, Learning and Empowering our Nations (POLLEN) (<https://coehs.unm.edu/departments-programs/teelp/education-leadership-program/pollen-cohort.html>)