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# **graduate COMMITTEE curriculum PROPOSAL FORM**

## A. Cover page (rover over text for more instructions- please delete red instructions)

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| A.1[. Course or program](#_acknowledge) | **Early Childhood Special Education, Certificate of Graduate Studies (Asynchronous program)** | | | | |  |
| Academic Unit | Feinstein School of Education and Human Development | | | | |  |
| A.2. [Proposal type](#type) | Program[: creation](#creation) | | | | |  |
| A.3. [Originator](#Originator) | Beth Pinheiro and Leslie Sevey | | [Home department](#home_dept) | | ELED and SPED | |
| A.4. [Rationale](#Rationale)  Additional Information for [new programs](#type) | The Rhode Island teacher workforce, like in most states, is facing a crisis as the teacher pipeline is desperately in need of growth. In considering the dearth of teachers of color specifically, research attests to the positive impacts on the academic achievement of K12 students of color (Gershenson, Hart, Hyman, Lindsay & Papageorge, 2018). While the prospect of diminished teacher populations resound nationally, such conversations regarding teacher pipelines are largely predicated upon traditional teacher preparation pathways for undergraduate candidates, primarily those exiting secondary schools and directly entering post-secondary education at public universities/colleges and community colleges. For example, Rhode Island SAT data indicate that only 4% (n= ~450) of Rhode Island test takers select education as their intended major. The pipeline is streamlined further by test-based admissions requirements for teacher preparation programs.  With the national and regional decrease in college going populations, teacher preparation can no longer exclusively rely upon undergraduate pathways to fill teaching ranks. Schools of education must now be prepared to deliver dynamic, accessible, and experiential based programs to adult learners that have been shut out of traditional teacher preparation programs. Rhode Island College’s Feinstein School of Education and Human Development (FSEHD) seeks to fill this need with an innovative program aimed at working adults, in particular, bachelor-degreed individuals seeking a pathway to early childhood certification.  The proposed dual **Early Childhood (ECE) and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)** CGS is unique from other regional offerings not only because of program design, but also because of our targeted student population. As noted elsewhere in the proposal, FSEHD teacher preparation programs almost exclusively serve “traditional” undergraduate students. We recognize that traditional approaches to teacher education, including those offered by FSEHD, do not meet the needs of adult learners. Thus, this post-baccalaureate program will offer a dual certification pathway to populations that have been excluded from teacher education including:   * Individuals who hold a bachelor’s degree * Individuals currently working in schools on emergency certification * Individuals currently working in classrooms as teaching assistants (TAs) who are seeking opportunities to further their education and move into a lead teaching role * Individuals currently working in urban schools or those with a desire to teach in urban schools * Career changers * Individuals with international teaching experience and credentials * Bilingual and multilingual individuals * People of color   We recognize that growing the state’s teacher of color pipeline is contingent upon programs like the ECSE Program, as the pipeline will grow only with creative outreach to TAs, substitutes, and others in school-based programs (e.g., Central Falls Warriors, City Year, etc.) who are looking to upscale their credentials. Our resolve to purposefully reach these populations is further reified by discussions with Local Education Agency leaders from across the state, who expressed concerns about their current and future teaching pool. Leaders want post-baccalaureate pathways that allow current employees to earn certification while remaining on the job.  In the case of TAs, data from the Pawtucket School District provides some insights on how a post-baccalaureate program could be beneficial but also how district data will help with program design and implementation. The district currently employs 97 FT TAs who work with students across all levels, with the majority working in elementary school settings. Demographic data reveals that of the 97 TAs, 30 individuals identify as people of color and 34 are bilingual in languages including Spanish, Portuguese, Cape Verdean Creole, French, Haitian Creole, Arabic and Hindi. Data also reveals that 27 TAs hold bachelor's degrees, including 2 MS and 1 PhD holder. diversity is found amongst the TA ranks.  We are committed to providing adult learners a flexible, affordable, and supportive path to ECSE certification. Program candidates will receive individualized advising, academic planning and supports, as well as access to additional wrap-around supports candidates require to achieve ECE and ECSE certification. For example, data gathered in a credential review analysis will provide the basis for an individualized learning plan to be completed through a competency-based curriculum.  The RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (RIOPC) put out a call for proposals for new innovative programs intended to support the workforce. Rhode Island FSEHD was awarded GEERS funding to develop an early childcare education post-baccalaureate dual certification pathway called the Early Childhood Special Program. Post-baccalaureate programs are designed to serve persons who have previously earned a bachelor’s degree. Dual certification for early childcare educators means that the program prepares candidates to meet all requirements (i.e. pass the PRAXIS and complete student teaching) to be certified by the state of Rhode Island Department of Education to teach Preschool to Grade Two as well as Early Childhood Special Education. This pathway is focused on attracting a more diverse pool of teacher candidates to the workforce through a competency-based model that increases opportunities to earn early childhood teaching certifications in PK-2 and Early Childhood Special Education. This pathway is designed to provide current childcare providers, teacher assistants, and other early learning educators, and those seeking to enter those fields, who have earned a bachelor’s degree, the ability to earn advanced credentials so as to increase their opportunities for career advancement and the professionalization of the early childhood field. | | | | | |
| A.5. [Student impact](#student_impact) | The proposed C.G.S will Increase opportunities for working professionals to gain access to early childhood coursework and certification pathways through the online competency-based programming. | | | | | |
| A.6. [Impact on other programs](#impact) | This program provides opportunities for program completers to feed into the Graduate program for Early Childhood Special Education. | | | | | |
| A.7. [Resource impact](#Resource) | [Faculty PT & FT](#faculty" \o "Need to hire new full-time or part-time faculty? This is where you indicate if this proposal will be affecting FLH in your department/program.): | Faculty load hours can be filled using current full-time early childhood and early childhood special ed faculty or adjunct faculty. | | | | |
|  | [Library:](#library) | May request additional textbooks and resources be available however most textbooks and materials will be electronic due to asynchronous format. | | | | |
|  | [Technology](#technology) | IT Support for the LMS. | | | | |
|  | [Facilities](#facilities): | Program is fully remote, no facilities required. | | | | |
| A.8. [Semester effective](#Semester_effective) | Fall 2023 | A.9. [Rationale if sooner than next Fall](#Semester_effective) | | N/A | | |
| A.10 [Changes to the website](#Signature_2) | Addition of this program to the FSEHD site and college catalog. | | | | | |

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| A.10. INSTRUCTIONS FOR CATALOG COPY: This single file copy must include all relevant pages from the college catalog, and show how the catalog will be revised.  (1) Go to the “Forms and Information” on the graduate committee’s website  <https://www.ric.edu/department-directory/graduate-curriculum-committee/forms-and-information>  Scroll down until you see the Word files for the current catalog.  (2) Download ALL catalog sections relevant for this proposal, including course descriptions and/or other affected programs.  (3) Place ALL relevant catalog copy into a single file. Put page breaks between sections and delete any catalog pages not relevant for this proposal.    (4) Using the track changes function, revise the catalog pages to demonstrate what the information should look like in next year’s catalog.  (5) Check the revised catalog pages against the proposal, making sure that program totals are correct when adding or deleting course credits. |

## B. NEW OR REVISED COURSES

|  | Old ([for revisions only](#Revisions)) ONLY include information that is being revised, otherwise leave blank | New Examples are provided within some of the boxes for guidance, delete just the examples that do not apply. |
| --- | --- | --- |
| B.1. [Course prefix and number](#cours_title) |  |  |
| B.2. Cross listing number if any |  |  |
| B.3. [Course title](#title) |  |  |
| B.4. [Course description](#description) |  |  |
| B.5. [Prerequisite(s)](#prereqs) |  |  |
| B.6. [Offered](#Offered) | Fall | Spring | Summer |  Even years | Odd years | Annually  [Alternate Years](file:///C:\Users\jfuentes_4972\Downloads\Alternate%20Years)  | As needed | Fall | Spring | Summer |  Even years | Odd years | Annually  Alternate Years | As needed. |
| B.7. [Contact hours](#contacthours) |  |  |
| B.8. [Credit hours](#credits) |  |  |
| B.9. [Justify differences if any](#differences) |  | |
| B.10. [Grading system](#grading) | Letter grade | Letter grade | S/U |
| B.11. [Instructional methods](#instr_methods) | Fieldwork | Internship | Laboratory | Lecture | Practicum | Seminar | Small group | Individual | Studio work | | Fieldwork | Internship | Laboratory | Lecture | Practicum | Seminar | Small group | Individual | Studio work |
| B.11.a [Delivery Method](#instr_methods) | On campus | Distance learning |  [% Online](#Online) | Asynchronous |Hybrid | On campus | Distance learning |  [% Online](#Online) | Asynchronous |Hybrid |
| B.12.[Categories](#required) | Required for program |Restricted elective for program | Free elective | Required for Certification | Required for program | Restricted elective for program | Free elective | Required for Certification |
| B.13. [How will student performance be evaluated?](#performance) | Attendance | Class participation | Clinical work | Exams | Fieldwork | Presentations | Papers |  Class Work | Interviews | Quizzes |  Performance Protocols | Projects |  | Reports of outside supervisor | Studio work | Attendance | Class participation | Clinical work | Exams | Fieldwork | Presentations | Papers |  Class Work | Interviews | Quizzes |  Performance Protocols | Projects |  | Reports of outside supervisor | Studio work |
| B.14. [Redundancy with, existing courses](#competing) |  |  |
| B. 15. Other changes, if any |  | |

| B.16. [Course learning outcomes](#outcomes): List each outcome in a separate row | [Professional organization standard(s)](#standards), if relevant | [How will each outcome be measured?](#measured) |
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|  |  | Click Tab from here to add rows |

| B.17. [Topical outline](#outline): Please do not include a full syllabus |
| --- |
| 1. Topic 1    1. Subtopic 1a    2. Subtopic 1b    3. Subtopic 1c 2. Topic 2    1. Subtopic 2a    2. Subtopic 2b 3. Etc. |

## C. [Program Proposals](#program_proposals)

|  | New/revised |
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| C.1. [Enrollments](#enrollments) | 24 per cohort |
| C.2. [Admission requirements](#admissions) | 1. Completed application form accompanied by a $50 nonrefundable fee.  2. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate course work.  3. Resumé documenting all experience in early childhood and/or early childhood special education  4. Bachelor’s degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in professional coursework.  5. Three candidate reference forms accompanied by letters of recommendation. If relevant, recommendations should include experience related to early childhood education, special education, and/or related field.  6. A performance-based evaluation that documents the candidate’s education and experience within early childhood education and/or individuals with exceptionalities, if possible.  7. Professional goals essay that describes candidate’s commitment to the field of Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education, cultural awareness, collaboration, and life-long learning.  8. Additional materials may be requested.  9. An interview may be required. |
| C.3. [Retention requirements](#retention) | GPA of 3.0 |
| C.4. [Course requirements](#course_reqs) for each program option | ECSE 510: ECE Neurotypical and Neurodiverse Learning/Development.  ECSE 520: Supporting Diverse Family and Community Relationships  ECSE 530: Comprehensive Assessment in Inclusive ECE Settings  ECSE 540: Comprehensive Literacy in ECE Settings  ECSE 550: SEL/Social Studies in Inclusive ECE Settings  ECSE 560: STEAM in Inclusive ECE Settings  ECSE 639: ECSE Student Teaching/Inclusive ECE Settings  ECSE 669: Best Practices in Inclusive ECE Settings |
| C.5. [Credit count](#credit_count) for each program option | 25 credits |
| C.6. Requirement for thesis, project, or comprehensive exam | Capstone, student teaching experience. |
| C.7. Program Accreditation | RIDE and NECHE |
| C.8 [Program goals](file:///Users/sabbotson/Documents/Curriculum/Program%20goals)  Needed for all new programs | Learning objectives of the Feinstein School of Education Early Childhood Special Education program outline candidate expectations and abilities including:   1. Promote ALL children’s development and learning, using a critical lens for social justice in education. 2. Recognize relationships as the foundation of understanding the child, family, and community. Candidates respect and support families as partners in the education and development of their child. And work collaboratively with community stakeholders to ensure positive outcomes for all children (SEL, health, wellness, education). 3. Implement intentional teaching strategies based on an in-depth understanding of child development, content of the discipline (RIELDS, CCSS-M, CCSS-ELA, NGSS, RI SS GSE), and effective instruction. 4. Collect and analyze assessment data to integrate ongoing action research in their professional settings; and resulting in individualized and culturally responsive practices. 5. Identify as a professional in the field using ethical guidelines; engaging in collaborative continuous learning; advocating for children, families, and the profession; and implementing skills of critical thinker, communicator, and reflective practitioner. |
| C.9. Other changes if any | N/A |
| C.10 [CIP number](https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/browse.aspx?y=56) | [13.1015](https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/cipdetail.aspx?y=56&cipid=89611) and [13.1210](https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/cipdetail.aspx?y=56&cipid=89622) |

## D. Signatures

##### D.1. Approvals:

##### Required from department chairs, program directors, and deans from the academic unit originating the proposal.

| Name | Position/affiliation | [Signature](#_Signature" \o "Insert electronic signature, if available, in this column) | Date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Leslie Sevey | Program Director of Early Childhood Education | Leslie A. Sevey | 2/10/23 |
| Beth McBride Pinheiro | Program Director of Early Childhood Special Education | Beth McBride Pinheiro | 2.10.23 |
| Carolyn Obel-Omia | Chair of Elementary Education | Carolyn Obel-Omia | 2/28/23 |
| Paul LaCava | Chair of Special Education | Paul LaCava | 2/16/2023 |
| Jeannine Dingus-Eason | Dean of FSEHD | Jeannine Dingus-Eason | 3/15/2023 |

##### D.2. [Acknowledgements](#acknowledge):

##### Required from all departments (and corresponding dean) impacted by the proposal. Signature does not indicate approval. Concerns should be brought to the attention of the graduate committee chair for discussion.

| Name | Position/affiliation | [Signature](#Signature_2) | Date |
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