# Early Childhood Education (ECE) Major Application Process

## Freshman Year

- **Follow** the ECE Curriculum Checksheet to ensure that you are not taking unnecessary classes and that you are completing 29-30 credits in this school year.
- **Plan to take** HDFS 101, HDFS 277, and HDFS 217 this year if possible.
- **It is strongly recommended** that students **declare** Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) as their major prior to application to the ECE major.

### Fall Semester

- Meet with your assigned advisor to discuss teaching career options and class options
- Attend an Introduction to ECE Group Advising Session with the pre-ECE Advisor
- Gain volunteer or paid work experience with children aged 0-8 years

### Spring Semester

- Meet with your assigned HDFS advisor to discuss teaching career options and class options
- Attend an Introduction to ECE Group Advising Session with the pre-ECE Advisor if you have not already
- Continue or begin volunteering or working with children aged 0-8 years

### Summer Semester is optional

## Sophomore Year

- **Plan to take** EDUC 275 and HDFS 310 this year (and HDFS 101, 277, and 217 if not yet taken).

### Fall Semester

- Meet with the pre-ECE Advisor to discuss the ECE major and application and/or attend an Introduction to ECE Group Advising Session with the pre-ECE Advisor if you have not already
- Meet with your assigned HDFS Advisor to discuss teaching career options and class options
- **ECE application opens in November**
- Attend the ECE Major Overview in November hosted by the School of Teacher Education and Principal Preparation (STEPP) and HDFS
- Continue volunteering or working with children aged 0-8 years

### Winter Break or sooner

- Ask 3 professionals to complete the recommendation form and optional letter of recommendation for the ECE application
- Contact the agencies that you have worked or volunteered with serving children aged 0-8 years from the past 5 years to complete hour verification form
- Complete the ECE application due the first Friday in February

### Spring Semester

- Attend an ECE Application Guidance Meeting with the pre-ECE Advisor if you have not yet
- Meet with pre-ECE Advisor and receive the advisor’s signature on your application prior to turning in the application (this may take place during an ECE Application Guidance Meeting or during an individual appointment)
- **Turn in your completed ECE application to the STEPP Office in room 101 of the Education Building by first Friday in February**
- Meet with your assigned advisor to discuss teaching career options and class options

### Summer Semester is optional

## Junior and Senior Year

After this application process, upon acceptance into the ECE Major, you would have 2 more years of course and field work to complete the major. You would then be advised by the designated HDFS advisor who advises the ECE major students.