ECED 2110.550 Professionalism (2 credit hours)
Fall 2025
Instructor: Karen Walter
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Zoom Office Hours: Monday and Wednesdays from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM or by appointment.
Zoom Link: Meeting ID: 532 596 0902

Land Acknowledgement*: Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.*

Course Description
This course provides a broad-based orientation to the field of early care and education. Early childhood history, philosophy, ethics and advocacy are introduced. Basic principles of early childhood systems are explored. Multiple perspectives on early care and education are introduced. Professional responsibilities such as cultural responsiveness and reflective practice are examined.

Course Competencies: This course is part of the articulated Universal Catalogue of Courses for Early Childhood Education in the State of New Mexico. The following objectives are taken from the New Mexico State Department of Education's Common Core Competencies for early childhood professionals (see Common Core Content manual). Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following competencies at the established level of proficiency:

- Recognize signs of emotional distress, child abuse, and neglect in young children and use procedures appropriate to the situation, such as initiating discussions with families, referring to appropriate professionals, and, in cases of suspected abuse or neglect, reporting to designated authorities. B.4 368 Revised 7/26/2022
- Demonstrate ability to communicate to families the program's policies, procedures, and those procedural safeguards that are mandated by state and federal regulations. C.11
- Use both self and collaborative evaluations as part of ongoing program evaluations. F.12
- Demonstrate ability to adhere to early childhood professional codes of ethical conduct and issues of confidentiality. G.1
- Demonstrate awareness of federal, state, and local regulations, and public policies regarding programs and services for children birth through eight years of age. G.2
- Demonstrate understanding of conditions of children, families, and professionals; the historical and current issues and trends; legal issues; and legislation and other public policies affecting children, families, and programs for young children and the early childhood profession. G.3

- Demonstrate critical reflection of one's own professional and educational practices from community, state, national, and global perspectives. G.4
- Demonstrate understanding of the early childhood profession, its multiple historical, philosophical, and social foundations, and how these foundations influence current thought and practice. G.5
- Demonstrate knowledge in technology resources to engage in ongoing professional development. G.7

Student Learning Outcomes (recommended)

1. Demonstrate a commitment to the principles of professionalism and code of ethics in the field of early childhood education.
2. Identify the historical and theoretical foundations of early childhood education and demonstrate how these apply to current practice, theory and events in the field.
3. Demonstrate how to effectively advocate for families and children through understanding of public policy, legal issues, and current regulations.

Evaluation:

This course is competency based. Student competency will be evaluated through a variety of assignments such as projects, presentations, writing assessments, exams, and experiences. (See Grading)

Textbook (none required):

All readings will be provided for by the instructor

Dual Credit

Dual Credit is a program which provides public high school students the opportunity to receive credit for both a high school course and a college course by taking a single qualifying course. For more information, please see the UNM-Valencia Course Catalog.

Textbook – Not Required

Instructor will provide all reading and study materials

Online Participation/Classroom Discussions

Discussions are an extremely important part of the course and are considered in the communication part of the grade. We will take advantage of the Discussion Board and/or a class discussion. The discussion will take place when new information is presented and will be included in the Canvas module. The topic will be relevant to information already covered in class. If the discussion will take place on the Discussion Board of Canvas, directions will be given prior to the event.

Students/Instructor Communication

Please check your UNM email and course messages regularly. You don't have to reply with text to the emails unless you have questions, but a thumbs up or other emoji would be appreciated so I know you got it. Email is the best way to communicate with me; I reply promptly and within 24

hours. I check my email and course messages at least once a day except for Sundays. I encourage you to email me with any questions you have. If you need to speak with me, please visit my office hours. You may also schedule an appointment to meet with me anytime.

Attendance

Attendance is a significant part of your grade (see grading below) and is part of your communication grade. If you are not able to attend, please let your instructor/teacher know prior to missing class.

Due Dates/Late Assignments

Students are expected to turn in work on or before the date that it is due. If there is an expectation that the assignment will be late, please communicate this to your instructor including the anticipated date the assignment will be turned in. Lack of communication on late assignments will affect your overall grade. The information in the course is cumulative and each assignment builds on previous information. If special consideration is necessary, please communicate this to instructor/teacher and alternative methods can be discussed.

Grading

Attendance and Communication 30%
Assignments 10%
Discussions 15%
Reflections 20%
Final 25%
Total 100%



Percentages and Grade Equivalent

100-97	A+	89-87	B+	79-77 C+ 69-66 D+
96-93	A	86-83	B	76-73 C 65-62 D
92-90	A-	82-80	B-	72-70 C- 61-59 D- 58-0 F

Course Outline

Week 1 - Syllabus, Expectations and Introductions
Week 2 – Context – Course Description
Week 3 - The Back Story - Foundational Theories and Theorists:
Week 4 and 5 – Legally Speaking - current issues and trends; legal issues; and legislation and other public policies affecting children, families, and programs for young children and the early childhood profession
Week 6 – Reflection
Week 7 - Critical reflection of one's own professional and educational practices from community, state, national, and global perspectives
Week 8 – Codes of Ethics; Philosophy; Confidentiality and Teaching
Week 9 – Policies, Procedures, State and Federal Regulations

Week 10 – Working with Families **-** Culturally Responsive Communication and Advocacy
Week 11 – Reflection/Discussion Board
Week 12 – Holiday Week
Week 13 and 14 – Technology and Professional Development - Project
Week 15 – Review
Week 16 – **Comprehensive Final Exam**

TECHNOLOGY-
Access to UNM Canvas is Imperative!!! All other technology necessary will be determined on a student by student basis.

Technical Requirements Con't.
Computer
- A high-speed Internet connection is highly recommended.
- Supported browsers include: Detailed Supported Browsers and Operating Systems
- Any computer capable of running a recently updated web browser should be sufficient to access your online course. However, bear in mind that processor speed, amount of RAM and Internet connection speed can greatly affect performance.
- For the best experience when using the Kaltura Media Tools inside UNM Canvas, be sure to use a supported browser on a desktop.
- Microsoft Office products are available free for all UNM students (more information on the UNM IT Software Distribution and Downloads page)
- Please update your contact information in Loboweb: MyUNM Login. When you log into *MyUNM*, Enter *LoboWeb*. Click on the Personal Information link to make sure your contact information is up to date.

Web Conferencing
This is asynchronous class and Web conferencing will not be used in this course.
You will be informed well in advance if changes to this are necessary.

Netiquette-
See Netiquette document also in Canvas Course "Introduction"
- *Netiquette document*

Submitting Assignments
When you submit an assignment via UNM Learn, you will receive an email receipt of your submission from *do-not-reply@learn.unm.edu*. Save this email as confirmation of your submission.

Accommodations:
UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a

confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506.

UAP 2720 and 2740.
Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. Find confidential services at ***LoboRESPECT*** Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the **LGBTQ Resource Center**. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see **UAP 2720 and UAP 2740.**

Academic honesty and AI use
Responsible Learning and Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism (academic dishonesty) are often driven by lack of time, desperation, or lack of knowledge about how to identify a source. Communicate with me and ask for help, even at the last minute, rather than risking your academic career by committing academic dishonesty. *Academic dishonesty involves claiming that work created by another source is your own original work*. It is a Student Code of Conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. When you use a resource in work submitted for this class, document how you used it and distinguish clearly between your original work and the material taken from the resource.

Thriving and Finding Support:
Students are especially successful at UNM when they take advantage of support and get involved in campus and academic life. Your *MyUNM* login page provides direct links to wellbeing resources, including financial capability, mental health, food, jobs, and resource centers. *MyUNM* will help you identify academic resources like peer tutoring and opportunities like study abroad. You can contact academic advisors and resource advisors for information and guidance via Student Hub on *MyUNM*. I look forward to providing you with information about academic opportunities related to our class and to helping you find support resources.

UNM Policies- For more on UNM Policies please visit: The Pathfinder; UNM's Student Handbook https://pathfinder.unm.edu/

This course falls under all UNM policies for last day to drop courses, etc. Please see or the UNM Course Catalog for information on UNM services and policies. **Please see the UNM academic calendar for course dates, the last day to drop courses without penalty, and for financial disenrollment dates.**