HONOURS BACHELOR OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT (BCD)

About the Program

The four-year Honours Bachelor of Child Development degree program prepares you for expansive opportunities across the health, education, and social service sectors. Upon completion of this program, you will be able to pursue careers in family support services, recreation, early learning and education, infant mental health, and early intervention for children and youth with diverse abilities. You will also qualify to register as a member of the College of Early Childhood Educator and practice as a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE).

With ongoing specialization, our students have achieved successful careers in assessment and counselling, child life, elementary teaching, speech and language therapy, and occupational therapy. Like many of our graduates, you may choose to complete your Bachelor of Education or a Master of Arts. Our faculty have direct experience in community settings and may help you in facilitating job opportunities.

As a student of this program, you will complete a work term which frequently translates into future employment. Ultimately, our applied learning model crosses various disciplines which will help you to think critically and gain experience in the field that fits your unique interests.

Advanced Entry

Graduates of a diploma program may be eligible to complete this degree faster through one of our pathway options (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/programs/fulltime/BCD/pathways.html).

Part-time option is available >

Credential Awarded
Honours Bachelor Degree

Duration
8 Semesters (4 Years)

Start
September

Program and Course Delivery

This program is offered in Seneca's hybrid delivery format. Some coursework is online and some must be completed in person. Students will need to come on campus to complete in-person learning requirements.

Skills

Throughout this program you will develop the following skills:

- Leadership
- Communication
- Interdisciplinary educational approaches
- Interprofessional collaboration

Work Experience
Field Placement

Field placement is central to the learning experience. You will have the opportunity to integrate classroom learning into practice with groups of children and families within the community. You will have four different field placement experiences throughout the program.

Mandatory Degree Work Term

A work experience that includes at least one term in a formal work environment. The work term(s) may be a paid or unpaid position that is completed between two academic semesters and requires a minimum of 420 hours of work. Students must be in good standing and meet all identified requirements prior to participating in the work experience. The successful completion of the work term(s) is required for graduation. Eligibility for participation does not guarantee that a work position will be secured. Additional fees are required for the mandatory degree work term regardless of success in securing a work position.

Your Career

Graduates of the program can explore the following career options:

- Resource consultant
- Child care manager
- Early interventionist
- Early literacy specialist
- Family support worker
- Child development specialist
- Instructor therapist
- Pre/post-natal program worker
- Young parent support worker
- Child and youth counsellor
- Curriculum developer
- Community group facilitator
- Community program worker
- Policy developer
- Researcher
- Playground inspector
- Custody visit supervisor
- Leadership roles across the early learning and care sector

Affiliations/Associations

Upon graduation you will qualify to join the following affiliations and associations:

- Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario (AECEO)
- The Canadian Association for Young Children (CAYC)
- Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCF)
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- The College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE)

Program of Study

Course Code	Course Name	Weekly Hours
Semester 1		
BCD102	Healthy Environments: Health, Safety and Nutrition	3
BCD104	Human Development and Observation: Conception to Toddlerhood	3
BCD106	Foundations of Teaching and Learning	3
BCD108	Professional Practice in a Diverse Culture	3
ENG106	Writing Strategies	3
Semester 2		
BCD200	Integrative Seminar: Preschool Placement	9
BCD204	Human Development and Observation: Preschool to School Age	3
BCD206	Art and Science to Explore the Natural World	3
BCD208	Ethics, Policy and Legislation	3
plus: Liberal Studies Course (1)		3
Semester 3		
BCD300	Integrative Seminar: Infant and Toddler Placement	9
BCD304	Children with Diverse Abilities	3
BCD306	Physical Literacy and Music	3
BCD308	Developing and Sustaining Partnership with Families	3
plus: Liberal Studies Course (1)		3
Semester 4		
BCD400	Integrative Seminar: Kindergarten to Grade 3 Placement	9
BCD404	Attachment Across the Lifespan	3
BCD406	Mathematics and Digital Literacy	3
BCD408	Child and Family Relationships: Theoretical Foundations	3
BCD410	Critical Social Theories	3
Semester 5		
BCD500	Integrative Seminar: Community Placement	9
BCD502	Mental Health Intervention Planning for Children	3
BCD504	Supporting Emotional Well-Being from Early Childhood through Adolescence	3
BCD508	Interprofessional Collaboration	3
LSO510	Indigenous Awareness: Towards Truth and Reconciliation	3
Semester 6		
BCD604	The Brain and Cognitive Development	3
BCD606	Introduction to Research Methods	3
BCD608	Care Collaboration with Families	4
BCD610	Language Development	3
WTP200	Work Term Preparation	1
plus: Liberal Studies Course (1)		3
Work-Integrated Learning Term		
BCD881	Childhood Development, Work Term	35
Semester 7		
BCD702	Effects of Stress, Trauma and Violence on Children's Learning	3
BCD706	Applied Research Proposal	3
BCD708	Methods of Screening and Assessment	3
BCD710	Childhood in Global Contexts	3
plus: Liberal Studies Course (1)		3
Semester 8		
BCD802	Transformative Learning in Communities	3
BCD806	Applied Research Paper	3
BCD808	Family Focused Practice: Early Intervention	3
plus: Liberal Studies Course (2)		6

Seneca has been granted a consent by the Minister of Colleges and Universities to offer this degree for a seven-year term starting Apr. 9, 2021. In conformity with the Minister's criteria and requirements, Seneca will submit an application for the renewal of the consent for this program 12 months prior to the expiration of the consent. Seneca shall ensure that all students admitted to the above-named program during the period of consent will have the opportunity to complete the program within a reasonable time frame.

Program Learning Outcomes

This Seneca program has been validated by the Credential Validation Service as an Ontario College Credential as required by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

As a graduate, you will be prepared to reliably demonstrate the ability to:

- Support human growth and development from prenatal to age 12 within diverse sociocultural-historical contexts.
- Design programs, services, and curricula for children, families, and communities informed by contextually relevant research, theories, philosophies, and human histories.
- Implement inclusive programs, services, and curricula across a broad range of complex systems and settings.
- Foster nurturing interpersonal relationships through positive communication to support children, families, communities, and colleagues.
- Promote principles that honour the diversity and equity of all persons, including but not limited to minorities such as: Indigenous peoples, newcomers, persons with exceptionalities, LGBTQ2S, and other groups listed in the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- Analyze information and situations using critical thinking in professional practice.
- Collaborate within interdisciplinary teams across a wide range of professional environments to provide services to children, families, and communities.
- Comply with regulatory standards, ethics, and codes of conduct in professional practice.

- Develop written, visual, and digital media to support a range of communication across professional contexts and audiences.
- Conduct applied research that informs contextually relevant practice.
- Advocate with colleagues, families, and community partners to further the right to justice, dignity, and equity for all persons.
- Engage in reflective practice to support professional growth and learning.

Admission Requirements

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent, including six Grade 12 U or M courses with a minimum overall average of 65%, or a mature applicant (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/mature-applicants.html).
- Required courses with minimum final grade of 65% in each:
  - English: Grade 12 ENG4U

Learn about Seneca's free English upgrading course (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/upgrading-options/english-12u-equivalency.html) and math upgrading course (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/upgrading-options/math-12u-equivalency.html) for applicants who don't meet the high school requirements, as well as recommended upgrading for applicants who don't meet their academic subject requirements. (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/upgrading-options.html)

Additional Information

To comply with the requirements of field placement organizations, you must have these documents prior to the start of the term. Documents must be valid for the duration of the placement semester:

- Vulnerable Sector Police Record Check

- Medical form: which includes current immunization and chest x-ray or tuberculin skin test reports

- Standard First Aid and CPR-C

- International students will need a valid Co-op Work permit.

To prepare for field placement students will receive an email invitation to attend an online Field Placement Orientation session. This session will provide you with helpful tips on how to complete these important documents.

If you are a current or recently accepted student and have questions about field placement documents, please email the field placement team (mailto:senecaecefieldplacements@senecapolytechnic.ca).

Advanced Entry
Admission Requirements

Advanced entry offers a pathway for graduates from the following Ontario diploma/advanced diploma programs with a GPA of 70% or higher:

- Child and Youth Care (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/programs/fulltime/CYC.html)
- Early Childhood Education (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/programs/fulltime/ECE.html)

Learn more about advanced entry (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/programs/fulltime/BCD/pathways.html)

International Student Information

International admissions requirements vary by program and in addition to English requirements (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/international/apply/how-to-apply/admission-requirements/english-requirements.html), programs may require credits in mathematics, biology, and chemistry at a level equivalent to Ontario's curriculum, or a postsecondary degree or diploma, equivalent to an Ontario university or college. Program-specific pre-requisite courses and credentials are listed with the admission requirements on each program page. To review the academic requirements please visit: Academic Requirements - Seneca, Toronto, Canada (senecapolytechnic.ca) (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/international/apply/how-to-apply/admission-requirements/academic-requirements.html).

Pathways

As a leader in academic pathways, we offer a range of options that will allow you to take your credential further in another Seneca program or a program at a partner institution.

To learn more about your eligibility, visit the Academic Pathways (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/pathways.html) web page.

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