



# WELCOME to the BK Online Degree Completion Program

Orientation to our BK Program

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Welcome to the Birth Through Kindergarten online degree completion program, this presentation will give you the information you need to get started in your major.

# Birth to Kindergarten Program



- The Birth to Kindergarten major is a part of an interdisciplinary program which offers an undergraduate degree taught by two departments
  1. School of Education –Specialized Education Services Department
  2. School of Health and Human Services - Human Development and Family Studies Department

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We are proud that our major is offered from two schools and two departments at UNCG. One is the School of Education- Specialized Education Services Department and one is the School of Health and Human Services- Human Development and Family Studies Department. We do this because of our philosophy and strong belief in inclusion of children with disabilities in the same classroom with children who are typically developing.



## Courses are co-taught

- Students take major courses that are co-taught with two instructors, one from each department. Co-taught courses are:
  - SES/HDF 315 - Assessment /Planning for Inclusive B-K Programs
  - SES/HDF 341 – Social Emotional Competence in Inclusive Settings
  - SES/HDF 425 – Infant/Toddler: Development, Learning & Curriculum
  - SES/HDF 435 – Preschool: Development, Learning & Curriculum
  - SES/HDF 436 – Kindergarten: Development, Learning & Curriculum
  - SES/HDF 468 – Diversity in Inclusive Early Care and Education

As a part of being an interdisciplinary program, many of our courses are co-taught with two instructors, one from Specialized Education Services and one from Human Development and Family Studies. This is a great opportunity for students to get information from two different sources, two bases of knowledge, and two different disciplines. Papers will be graded by two different people as there are two instructors, one from each department to which students can turn to when they have questions.



## Program philosophy

- The BK curriculum has many principles that we believe are critical for competent, caring Early Childhood professionals.
  - Inclusion of children with disabilities in settings with children who are typically developing
  - Family Partnerships with the families of all of the children we serve, viewing them as the experts on their child
  - Affirming and embracing of all types of diversity including demonstrating cultural competence
  - Collaboration with families and colleagues



Our program has several philosophical points that we consider to be key for students to learn in order for them to become caring competent early childhood education professionals. Four of these are included here. One which I have alluded to before is the inclusion of children with disabilities in settings with children who are typically developing and we would like to support our students to learn to be teachers who fully included children with disabilities in the classroom and in the programing in every way. We also believe strongly in forming partnerships with the families of the children that we teach, recognizing them and not us as the experts on their children. We believe in affirming all types of diversity, embracing it in our practice and committing to becoming competent with all types of diversity, be it ability diversity, family composition, all things related to culture; race, ethnicity, religion and so on. Children learn through the lens of diversity through which they have been exposed to, the family composition and culture and so on in their home and we teach better when we teach to the things that children know. Collaborations with colleagues and families and members of our community is also another key philosophy. Learning to collaborate and learning to form partnerships and teams with people is another skill that we try to ingrain in our students.



## BK Online Degree Completion Program

- **Two concentrations** – both administered by HDFFS
  1. Early Care and Education (ECE) – culminates in a Bachelors degree in Birth to Kindergarten education
  2. BK Licensure – Culminates in a BK Bachelors Degree and a North Carolina BK Teaching License
- **Career opportunities**
  1. ECE - concentration prepares students for careers in child-care centers and agencies
  2. Birth through Kindergarten teacher licensure con-centration enables students to also teach in public school Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms

One unique feature of our BK education program is that we offer two concentrations, one is in Early Care and Education which culminates in a Bachelor's degree in Birth to Kindergarten education. The second is BK Licensure which culminates in a BK Bachelor's degree and a North Carolina BK Teaching License. The Early Care and Education concentration prepares students to go into fields in child care centers and agencies and other professions related to early childhood. The BK North Carolina Teaching Licenses adds the ability to teach in NC pre-K classrooms and NC kindergarten classrooms.



# Advising

- Advising journal on Blackboard - most frequent - occurs completely online - Stores a record of advising
- Face to-face - students are invited to come to campus to meet with their advisor and spend time on their campus if distance permits
- Phone advising - advisors phone conference with advisees
- Google hangout - advisors meet online with advisees on Google hangout



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Students who are in the online program are considered to be Distance education students, these students can come to advising in a number of ways. Every semester students have to come to advising to go over their Plan Of Study and to evaluate or re-evaluate their path to graduation. Online students are of course invited to come to advisor's offices for face-to-face advising in the same way that main campus students do. They may choose however to use the advising journal currently housed on Blackboard for an online conversation back and fourth on a journal that keeps a record and is documented for the student and advisor to check back on. Students may also choose telephone advising when the advisor calls the student and advises them by phone, and lastly students may also use google hangout via there google email account and do advising that way.



## Course delivery methods

1. Asynchronous – students do not meet at a specific time, but work at their own pace, meeting assignment deadlines
2. Synchronous – students meet via Blackboard Collaborate at a specific time each week
  - Requires students to have headset with microphone and a web camera
  - Students must have a dependable computer and reliable internet source to enroll in the online program

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In the BK Online Degree Completion Program all courses are online. Students are certainly welcome to come to campus but they do not ever have to come to campus to take a course. Our two delivery methods are Asynchronous, where the students never really get together with their instructor or their class at a specific time and are indeed free to do their assignments and to do their work at their own pace as long as they meet assignment deadlines and turn in their work before it is due or when it is due. Synchronous classes, and there are about 4 of those, meet on Blackboard Collaborate which is very similar to Skype. They meet at a specific day and time a week in the evenings and actually go online on camera with a headset and microphone and they can see each other and see the instructor and talk to their classmates and listen to the lecture and things of that nature. Students need to have a dependable computer when it comes to being in an online program and certainly a reliable internet source and anytime that a student is going to be in this online program they need to make arrangements for that before they take any course, but this is particularly important with the synchronous classes that require a little bit more bandwidth and a little bit stronger internet connection than the asynchronous courses require. All students will take primarily asynchronous courses but all students will take several synchronous courses as well. These may be taken in your home, you may go online at work, at your public library, you can even go in a coffee shop if you would like, but all courses are done online and students are never required to come to campus to sit in on a course.

## UNC Genie – Frequently used Genie sites

1. [Enter Secure Area](#)  
Login here to view your personal information.

The secure area of Genie houses such information as students' Academic Transcript, Degree Evaluation, Class Registration, Registration Window dates and the area to buy books

1. [Class Schedule](#)  
View the current schedule of classes.

The class schedule area shows what courses are available in a given semester or summer session, how many seats are open, the CRN (course registration number) and the dates the course is open, full semester, mini-mester, winter-mester, etc.

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UNCGenie offers many features to students at UNCG. I have only included two here, one which is the class schedule where students may go to look up what courses are available and what time they are offered, who the instructor is, how many seats are available, are all of the seats taken, and things of this nature. So it is very important to know how to go to the class schedule. That is where the Course Registration Numbers are located and that is what the students use to register for classes. The Secure Area of Genie is accessed by using the student's 9-digit ID number and the student's 6-digit numeric pin. This is indeed a very secure site and it is where the students can go to see their Academic Transcript, their Degree Evaluation, where they check to see when their registration window opens and when it closes, and when students actually register for classes. Grades are posted in the secure area of Genie as well. There is an option in that area to buy or rent books and have them shipped. So this is a very important part of the UNCG offering that students will access frequently and where information is that students need to know.

## Using our BK-Early Care Online Organization

- The Organization is a web page that is exclusively for students in the Online degree completion program
- The Organization contains:
  - BK program information such as:
    - B K Handbook
    - Practicum Information
    - Praxis
  - Advising Journal – an interactive journal where students can communicate regarding courses, registration and students' Plans of Study. It keeps a permanent record for both the advisor and student
  - Links and forms
    - Secondary Admission form
    - Liability Insurance
    - Background check
    - Student Teaching applications and Teacher Education applications
    - Praxis
    - Distance designation and tuition form

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Another helpful online feature is the BK-Early Care Online Organization. It is currently housed on Blackboard, which is our Learning Management System. This is exclusively for Birth to Kindergarten Online Degree Completion students and is not available to all students as a whole. It has such information as the BK handbook, everything dealing with practicum placements and student teaching placements. For the BK Licensure students it gives information about the Praxis. It also has forms that the students need often like Secondary Admission, information on securing liability insurance and criminal background checks for practicum courses and courses with family projects. It has the applications for both ECE and BK Licensure for students to apply for student teaching. Again the information for if you need to take the Praxis and how to access study guides for the Praxis are housed there. There is also other information there on how to read your Degree Evaluation and things of this nature. So this is our own personal webpage! Reminders are sent from this site announcements are made, emails are sent. This is sort of like the hub for the online students where everything they need each semester is as they progress through the program.

# Declaration of Understanding

- The Declaration of Understanding is a document signed by all newly admitted students after they have completed this orientation and talked to their advisor
- The Declaration is intended to ensure that students know exactly what is involved in the program, curriculum and as a student at UNCG so they have an awareness and agree to follow all requirements.

## Declaration of Understanding - BK/ECE Online Degree Completion Program

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that I have been admitted into the School of Health and Human Sciences online degree completion program in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, and that I am expected to apply myself in all classes. In addition, I am aware of the



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In order to ensure that newly admitted students to the Birth to Kindergarten Online Degree Completion Program understand everything about the program before they move forward with becoming a student we have a document called the Declaration of Understanding. All newly admitted students sign this but only after they indeed realize that they understand everything that is written in there. The purpose of this is sort of like full disclosure so that the students know that they will have practicum placements and student teaching internships, so that they realize that there are synchronous classes, so that they know that there are two concentrations and that they have a choice. It is just a document that details in very succinct order everything that is involved in earning this degree and, if you are in that concentration, a teaching license here in our program at UNCG. Once students read that and talk to their advisor as well as look up everything that they need, they sign this Declaration stating that they have an understanding of the program, they realize what is involved, and that they are ready to move forward to get their Bachelors degree and to complete this particular curriculum