



Early Childhood Studies Program Closes

Beginning with the 2020–2021 academic year, PSU will no longer accept new students into the BS program in Early Childhood Education (ECE). Faculty will continue to teach the program’s required courses during the next three years so that all current ECE students will be able to complete their degrees and graduate on time.

Enrollments in ECE have been steadily declining for the last decade. We attribute this decline to a number of factors, including low status and low pay for early childhood educators, the lack of state-supported public preschool in New Hampshire, the overall reduction in the number of students interested in teacher preparation programs, the general demographic decline in college students in the Northeast, and the preference among New Hampshire school administrators to hire teachers with K–6 or K–8 certification rather than those with specialized early childhood certification.

Ultimately, with the support of the administration, the ECE faculty proposed ending the major. This has been a difficult decision, but is necessary in terms of stewardship of tight University resources. We acknowledge with sadness that this will have a negative effect on the preparation of high-quality early childhood educators for children and families in New Hampshire.

Please note that the PSU Center for Young Children and Families will continue to provide high-quality childcare for Plymouth area children and families, and that ECE faculty will continue to support the University through teaching, scholarship, and service.



A bachelor’s degree in early childhood education is the college major with the lowest projected lifetime earnings.⁶ In fact, most early childhood educators with bachelor’s degrees earn less than \$15/hour.⁷

UC Berkley Center for the Study of Child Care Employment

Career Connections

PSU’s Career Development Office is committed to supporting New Hampshire employers and our students. The office is launching Handshake, the #1 early talent community, which is used by 900+ college and university partners (including the majority of New Hampshire institutions) and 500,000+ employers. Handshake will increase employer access to PSU students in New Hampshire and beyond.

Career Development is also hosting employer events in the spring semester, including:

- Careers in New Hampshire Night (February)—promoting NH employers and encouraging more young college graduates to work in-state.
- Spring Job & Internship Fair (March)—connecting students to 90+ employers hiring for internships and jobs; roughly 60 percent of the employers are from NH.
- New Hampshire Employment Fair (April)—in collaboration with the State Employment Securities Commission, the University hosts a job fair on campus exclusively for regional Granite State employers.



Please contact [Marcia Schmidt Blaine](#) if you would like more information on the University.

For more on the economic and cultural value of higher education, please see

[Government Relations at Plymouth State University](#)