

EDEC 5370 *Research in Early Childhood*

Major Course Description/Requirement

This capstone course provides students the opportunity to complete their Graduate Research Project (GRP) by identifying and investigating school and community-based problems and applying inquiry writing, and research skills to a relevant issue or concern in early childhood. Students develop and implement a relevant research project that includes a problem statement, literature review, data collection, analysis, and summary/application. Alternatively, students pursuing a Master's Thesis may substitute this class for the first 3 credit hours of EDEC 5306 Thesis.

Prerequisites: EDEC 5314 and completion of at least 50% of all required core coursework.

Restrictions: Undergraduate level students may not enroll.

Learning Objectives

In successful completion of the course, students will:

- Review and summarize relevant research to support the research project,
- Outline the research methodology,
- Conduct ethical research that impacts their family, work or community,
- Analyze research data,
- Compile research findings; and,
- Share research findings within the larger community.

Lecture and Discussion Topics

- Action Research
- Ethical Research
- Data Analysis
- Writing and Publications
- Professional Communication

Assignments

- Quizzes
- Journal Responses
- Graduate Research Project Report

National Standards

NAEYC Standard 6: Becoming a professional

6c: Using professional resources, inquiry skills & research methods to engage in continuous, collaborative learning & investigation relevant to practice & professional role.

6d: Integrating knowledgeable, reflective, & critical perspectives on early education based upon mastery of relevant theory & research.

6c: Using professional resources, inquiry skills & research methods to engage in continuous, collaborative learning & investigation relevant to practice & professional role.

6d: Integrating knowledgeable, reflective, & critical perspectives on early education based upon mastery of relevant theory & research.

6f: Demonstrating a high level of oral, written & technological communication skills with specialization for specific professional role(s) emphasized in the program.

Required Readings

APA (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.)*. APA.

Other Required Readings as assigned in Blackboard