This summer, the Washington State Higher Education Coordination Board approved the BA in Children’s Studies for online delivery. After two years of planning and development, the Children’s Studies online programming option is now ready for a fall launch, the first online major at Eastern.

As with the delivery of the major in Cheney and Bellevue, the online major in Children’s Studies boasts breadth and depth, offering students the benefit of perspectives from varied disciplines as well as research opportunities with practitioners in the field, relevant internships and career counseling. This degree supports multiple career paths in work with children, including early learning/preschool teacher, after-school program director, youth shelter worker, crisis care provider, child care licensor, juvenile justice worker, foster care supervisor, family mediator, child life/health worker. In addition, given the economic crisis and the high unemployment, this program has been designed to meet the needs of location bound individuals seeking a degree and/or retraining to work with children in the areas of health care, legal fields, social work and other professional areas in their home community.

The continued professional development of early childhood educators is another motivating factor in this expansion of the program. The Head Start Re-authorization Act requires at least 50 percent of Head Start teachers nationwide in center-based programs have a baccalaureate or advanced degree in early childhood education or a baccalaureate or advanced degree and coursework equivalent to a major relating to early childhood education, with experience teaching preschool-age children by September 30, 2013. The Children’s Studies Program at Eastern has been working collaboratively with community organizations and community college partners across the state to support the educational needs of such early childhood educators.

The new online program has been designed as an open cohort model. This means that when a student declares this option, they can complete the major (and other university requirements) completely online over the course of two years. With few prerequisites and very little sequencing of courses, students can enter the program during any quarter or complete the program part time.

Existing face-to-face courses in the major have been redesigned for online delivery by the instructional design team at the Division of International and Educational Outreach in collaboration with the Children’s Studies Curriculum Committee. In most cases, the same instructors who have been teaching in programs at Cheney or Bellevue will be teaching the online courses.

For more information see: www.ewu.edu/online.
The BA in Children’s Studies requires an internship or practicum but this requirement is more than just a matter of academic credit or checking another box off your “to do” list. An internship is a way to strengthen your resume, build your career portfolio and extend your professional network. A successful internship can play a key role in transitioning smoothly from your education to your professional career.

Interns receive academic credit when working with employers in positions related to their career interests. Students can elect to take 1-2 credits of internship each quarter for several quarters rather than all 4 credits in one quarter. They can also elect to work with different employers in different quarters. In a typical quarter, the number of hours per week worked on site would follow the general guideline of 1 credit requiring 4 hours per week on site for the quarter, 2 credits requiring 8 hours per week, 3 credits equaling 12 hours per week and 4 credits requiring 16 hours per week.

Students initiate the internship, which is a collaborative learning process facilitated by an academic advisor, site supervisor and the Career Services Internship Office. It is a good idea to talk with your faculty advisor, check out resources in the Children’s Studies office, visit with a Children’s Studies peer mentor and/or visit the EWU Career Services Internship office for ideas about possible/appropriate internship sites and contacts.

A quick look through the resources in the Children’s Studies Office will provide a variety of sites and opportunities to work with children from birth to adolescence or to work on projects that benefit children. A few of the sites where Children’s Studies students have successfully completed internships include: Blueprints for Learning, EWU Children’s Center, YMCA Childcare Center, Discovery School, Sacred Heart’s Children’s Hospital, Make-a-Wish Foundation, Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, Sally’s House, Crisis Residential Center and Daybreak.

We are also continually working to expand our internship opportunities for both the benefit of our students and our local communities. For example, we recently visited with the staff at the Child Care Center in Camas Institute’s Center for Wellness in Usk, Wash., part of the Kalispell Tribe’s community support. We would love to be able to help sponsor an intern to work with this center in the coming year.

To register for internship credits and initiate your Learning Contract, see Dr. Wright, Children’s Studies Program director.
THE CHILDREN'S INVESTMENT FUND, SUPPORTING SPOKANE'S CHILDREN

Spokane kids need your help. Throughout September and October the Spokane Alliance will be engaging Spokane voters on the phone, at their door, and at community events as well as in the media in order to educate them on this important local initiative. Alliance institutions and community allies will be collectively working to accomplish this grassroots effort. Contact your Alliance representative or the Alliance office to find out how you can participate. Email info@spokanealliance.org, call 509.532.1688, or visit www.spokanealliance.org and www.ourchildrenfirstspokane.org.

“The Spokane children’s investment fund is our opportunity to invest in our future and help our children succeed in school and life,” notes Spokane Police Chief, Anne Kirkpatrick. The Children’s Investment Fund will:

- Expand the capacity to local youth-serving organization and programs
- Provide more opportunities in early childhood, by preparing children for kindergarten.
- Provide more after school programs and mentoring.
- Support child abuse prevention and intervention.

Do you have news to share? Please contact us!

CHILDREN’S STUDIES
CLUB OFFICERS – 2010/11

- PRESIDENT - KELLY JO KEGGERREIS
  SENIOR WITH A 2ND MAJOR IN HISTORY

- VICE PRESIDENT - CHARISE MONGE
  SENIOR WITH A 2ND MAJOR IN COUNSELING, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (CEDP)

- TREASURE - STAN PICHINEVSKY
  SENIOR WITH 2ND MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

- SECRETARY - JANA BOWMAN
  SENIOR WITH 2ND MAJOR IN SOCIAL WORK

CONGRATULATIONS! WAY TO GO! AND DON’T FORGET TO WRITE . . .

- Sammie Snider (2009) successfully completed her MA in Special Education at Eastern this summer and landed a job at Clover Park High School in Lakewood, Wash.

- Nettie Welshons (2009) was hired as a Child Life Specialist at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Children’s Hospital in Spokane. Nettie continues her work on special child life projects in a variety of hospital environments from children’s oncology to the emergency room.

- LaMeshia Reese-Taylor (2010) was accepted to the graduate program in counseling at the University of Oklahoma.

- Pamela Shearer (2010) was accepted to the Masters in Family Therapy program at Brandman/Chapman University.

- Jessica Shover (2010) successfully completed her Child Life internship and plans to take her CLS certification exam in October.

- Alix Sieg (2010) completed her internship at Crisis Residential Center and has accepted a full-time position there as a Child and Family Counselor.

NCUR ABSTRACTS DUE IN NOVEMBER

The National Conference on Undergraduate Research, NUCR, promotes, “undergraduate research scholarships and creative activities done in partnership with faculty or other mentors as a vital component of higher education.”

Last year, three Children’s Studies majors presented at NCUR in Montana. This year, NCUR will take place at Ithaca College in New York (March 31-April 2). If you are currently working on, or have ideas for, an original creative activity or research project, please check out NCUR http://www.ncur.org/ and discuss the possibilities with a faculty mentor. Abstract submissions are due by November 19.

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CALENDAR (important dates/ events)

October 6, 13, & 20, 2010  12:00-1:00 p.m.
Pizza Swap Workshops
Focus on graduate school preparation

October 14 & 28, 2010  3:30 p.m.
Children’s Studies Club meetings
05 Hargreaves

October 13 – 16
WAEYC
(Washington Association for the Education of Young Children)

November 5, 2010
Spring 2011 Graduation application due

November 11 & 25, 2010  3:30 p.m.
Children’s Studies Club meetings
05 Hargreaves

CHILDREN’S STUDIES COURSE OFFERINGS (Winter 2011)

Winter Courses 2011 – Core Courses in Cheney

Child Adolescent Development CEDP 313 (4 credits) MTWR 9-9:50 a.m. Mehlert

Sociology of Family SOCI 370 (5 credits) M-F 9-9:50 a.m. Wright

Senior Portfolio CDST 492 (2 credits) THUR 4-5:50 p.m. TBA

Developmental Theories CEDP 320 (4 credits) TR 1-2:50 p.m. Munson

Introductory Statistics CSBS 320 (5 credits) multiple sections

Human Relations CEDP 315 (4 credits) MTWR 10-10:50 a.m. Guillory

Human Learning CEDP 324 (4 credits) MTWR 10-10:50 a.m. Sain

Integrated Early Childhood Practices EDUC 456 (5 credits) TR 1-3:30 p.m. Sherwood

Learning Paradigm EDUC 458 (5 credits) TR 4-6:30 p.m. Sherwood

*Required Option Courses in Cheney

*References the 2010/11 Catalog. If you declared your major prior to summer 2010, please check the appropriate catalog for courses.