

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
CERTIFICATE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
& FAMILY STUDIES

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Q 1. What are the required qualifications for this programme?

OPTION 1

(a). As entrants with CXC, CSEC & GCE qualifications having: an acceptable pass in CXC, CSEC Mathematics or its equivalent; AND
An acceptable pass in CXC, CSEC English A; AND
One of the following minimum qualifications:
Either five subjects (at least two GCE A Level or CAPE) and the remainder acceptable passes in CXC, CSEC or GCE O' Level; or
Four subjects (at least three GCE A Level or CAPE) and the fourth an acceptable pass in the CXC, CSEC or GCE O' Level
Grade requirements for CXC/CSEC subjects are General Proficiency, Grades 1 or 2 pre- 1998 and Grades 1, 2, or 3 from June 1998.

OPTION 2

(b). Holders of five (5) CXC, CSEC or GCE O' Level passes or equivalent, not necessarily obtained at the same sitting.

OPTION 3

(c). Entrants with a Diploma, Certificate or UWI or another approved Caribbean tertiary level institution, having attained a B+ average or a minimum GPA of 2.5. Graduates of the existing Two-Year Early Childhood Certificate may receive special permission for exemption from degree courses where courses completed in the certificate are identical or equivalent to Level 1 degree courses.

EXEMPTIONS

Q 2. Are exemption from courses offered if I have completed a UWIOC Pre-University ECCE Certificate?

YES! Exemptions are offered for four (4) level 1 courses (ECFS1001, ECFS1002, ECFS1006 & ECFS1007) if you have completed UWIOC Pre-University ECCE Certificate programme and achieved a B+ and above in any of the following courses:

- History & Philosophy of Early Childhood or Education 1
- Child Development
- Methodology & Curriculum or Education 2
- Internship Program

Q3. Are exemption from courses offered if I have completed the SERVOL Early Childhood Programme?

YES! Exemptions are offered for four (4) Level 1 courses (ECFS1001, ECFS1002, ECFS1006, & ECFS1007) if you have successfully completed the SERVOL ECCE Certificate and achieved a B+ and above in the following courses:

- History & Philosophy of Early Childhood or Education 1
- Child Development
- Methodology & Curriculum or Education 2
- Internship Program

Q4. Are exemptions from courses offered if I have completed an early childhood programme from another Tertiary institution?

YES! However you will need to submit your transcript, copies of the course outlines, evidence of contact hours and credits achieved in the courses to be evaluated by the Exemption Team- email: (student.services@open.uwi.edu)

PROGRAMME DESIGN

Q5. How many credits do I need to obtain a Certificate in Early Childhood Development & Family Studies?

You need **30 credits** in order to be awarded a Certificate in ECDFS. All courses are worth three (3) credits.

Q6. How many courses should I complete each Semester?

For the adult working full time we strongly recommend you choose three courses per semester to aid your effective time management skills.

Q7. Is there a minimum and a maximum number of courses I can take each semester?

You can register for a minimum of one and a maximum of 3 courses each semester. In the Summer Semester a maximum of two courses are recommended.

You will have to choose from the early childhood courses and the mandatory foundation courses, to make up your required course load each Semester.

All students would be advised to use the Academic Advising document (located on the UWIOC website) to guide them on the selection of courses for each academic year.

Q8. Do any of the level one (1) courses have pre-requisites?

YES! ECFS1007 practicum one (1) has the following pre-requisites: ECFS1001, ECFS1002, ECFS1003 ECFS1006.

Q9. Would I need to complete any pre-practicum documents before I register for the practicum course?

YES! You will need to submit the documents listed below to ecdfspracticumdocuments@open.uwi.edu **before you register for practicum 1:**

- A recent Police Certificate of Good Character (Not more than six months old).

- A completed UWIOC Health Assessment form, signed by a registered physician. (You may have to update your immunization shots).
- A completed 'In Case of Emergency Form'.
- N.B: The UWIOC Health Assessment Form & the 'In Case of Emergency Form' can be downloaded from the B.EdECDFS Programme page on the UWIOC website.

Q10. Would I have to take time off from my job to complete the practicum course?

YES! Practicum one (1) is for 10 days at a practicum Site. If you do not work in an early childhood centre you will have to apply for time off from your job to complete the 10 day requirement for practicum. However you will be able to choose from the three options listed below in order to complete practicum one (1).

- **OPTION 1**
Three (3) consecutive days per week.
- **OPTION 2**
One (1) consecutive week each until the 10 day requirement is complete
- **OPTION 3**
Two (2) consecutive weeks

Q11. If I do not work at an early childhood center will I be placed at a practicum Site to complete the practicum courses?

YES! You would be placed at a practicum Site by UWIOC. **You would have to indicate to the Program Manager on acceptance into the program in Semester one (1) that you need to be placed at a practicum Site in your country.** Communication with the Program Manager can take place Via your completed Practicum 1 Form.

Q12. Will I have to complete online activities in the Practicum course?

YES! The practicum course is blended; you will have online activities and Units to complete while you engage in the practical experience at the practicum Site.

DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAMME

Q13. How is the programme delivered?

The Certificate in ECDFS is an online programme. You would need to have your own computer and reliable internet to access this programme from the comfort of your home.

Q14. How many days would I have to sign into the Learning Exchange?

We recommend at least an hour per day you should sign into the learning exchange, to keep abreast of the activities in the Units. You can sign in at times convenient to your schedule to complete the required activities and assignments.

Q15. When do I have to sign into the Learning Exchange at specific times?

- When an assignment is due at a given date and time, you will have to sign into the learning exchange and submit your assignment.
- When your program manager, course coordinator or tutor wants to meet with you in real time, you will need to sign into the learning exchange at a particular time.
- When you have group activities to complete you will need to sign into the Learning Exchange at a particular time.

Q16. What academic support would I receive with my courses?

Each programme has a Program Manager who manages the overall delivery of the Programme at the start of each semester you would be provided with academic advising suggestions as you manage your course load and work towards your Certificate. Career advice is also provided by the program manager to students who request such a service.

Each course has a Course Coordinator who works with the tutors to ensure that their guidance to you is appropriate. They can also assist you with advice on time management skills and they will motivate you to successfully complete the course. .

Each course has Tutors assigned to groups of 35 students. The tutor's role is to guide you through the activities in the course Units and to answer any questions you may have about the activities, assignments and advice on academic matters.

Each course is assigned a Course Delivery Assistant who monitors the course and provides support to you via the following ways:

- Orientation to the Learning exchange sessions
- Daily SKYPE synchronous sessions
- Email contact for academic support
academicsupport@open.uwi.edu

The helpdesk (helpdesk@open.uwi.edu) is available to assist you with technical issues (appropriate systems to be downloaded on your computer) you may encounter with your UWIOC email etc. All your technical issues as it relates to uploading of assignments etc. will be passed onto the Learning Support Specialist.

