

## ECE101 | Foundations of Early Childhood Education

### Course Text

No need to track down a textbook; this text is provided digitally as part of the course enrollment:

Sadker, D.M., Zittleman, K.R., & Koch, M. (2022). *Teachers, schools and society* (6th ed). McGraw-Hill.

### Course Description

Foundations of Early Childhood Education encourages learners to consider what it means to be an educator in the 21st century, empowering them to analyze current issues that they may encounter in a modern teaching career. This course introduces learners to important foundational frameworks, such as emotional and multiple intelligences and growth mindset. In addition, learners will gain an understanding of the history and evolution of the American educational system--including its roots and current context.

### Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand what it means to be in the teaching profession and how teacher preparation has changed over the years
2. Engage in a reflective discussion about how teachers can foster students' growth mindsets and help students develop their EQ while meeting the needs of learners with exceptionalities
3. Apply how unconscious bias influences life in the classroom and how deficit, expectation, and cultural difference theories explain dissimilar academic performance among various racial, ethnic, and cultural groups
4. Critically consider how the history of education (including the Colonial period, Common School movement, and the education of under-represented groups) contextualized the way education in America was formed and then how the educational system evolved as a result of reform efforts, federal programs, and influential educators
5. Engage in information discovery and analysis regarding some of the major philosophies of education in the United States today and identify some of the psychological and cultural factors influencing education
6. Compare the parameters of educational equity and educational adequacy and understand how school boards and superintendents manage schools within confines of budgets and broader community constraints
7. Create an outline for how school reform options have impacted public schools and for the role of teachers, community members, and students within those efforts
8. Identify the formal and hidden curriculum taught in schools today and the cultural and political implications resulting from current reform efforts like the Common Core State standards and how technology is being integrated

9. Demonstrate how teachers navigate their classrooms, set a stage for learning, and support effective instruction in a multitude of ways using different models of instruction

## Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for Foundations of Early Childhood Education.

## Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful and responsible manner. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and academic misconduct. Failure to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy can result in a failure and/or zero on the attempted assignment/examination, a removal from the course, disqualification to enroll in future courses, and/or revocation of an academic transcript.

## Course Completion Policy

In order for a course to be considered complete, **all required coursework must be attempted, submitted, and graded.** Required coursework consists of graded assignments. Any Academic Integrity Policy violations may prevent a course from being considered complete.

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## Assessment Types

StraighterLine courses may include any combination of the assessment types described below. Review the descriptions to learn about each type, then review the Course Evaluation Criteria to understand how your learning will be measured in this course.

### Benchmarks

Benchmarks test your mastery of course concepts. You have 3 attempts, and your highest score counts.

**Note:** Cumulative Benchmarks (final exams) only allow 1 attempt.

### Capstones

Capstones are project-based assessments that help you apply concepts to real-world scenarios. You have 2 attempts, and your highest score counts.

### Checkpoints

Checkpoints are quick knowledge checks on important course concepts. All are open-book, and most have 1-3 attempts.

## AI Use-Case Policies

StraighterLine Capstone assessments operate under one of three AI Use-Case Policies. These designations are selected intentionally to support learners in developing digital literacy, ethical reasoning, and authentic communication skills. Each model requires students to engage meaningfully with the course outcomes while adhering to academic standards.

**Independent Work Requirement:** Capstones with this designation must be completed independently without using AI tools. The goal is for learners to showcase their own understanding and skills without AI assistance. Students are expected to generate and submit original work developed solely through their own reasoning and effort.

**AI-Assisted Planning Option:** Capstones with this designation may allow AI tools to support brainstorming and assessment planning. If allowed, students will be asked to document any AI assistance by noting how it informed their work. Documentation must be included within the assignment or in a designated reflection field. Examples include describing how an AI tool helped organize an outline, generate ideas, or surface sources for further exploration.

**AI-Integration Requirement:** Capstones with this designation require AI tools as part of the learning process. Students will be asked to reflect upon their AI interactions and AI contributions to the assessment. Reflections must include which tools were used, how they were used, and what insights students gained from the process. This promotes transparency, ethical use, and metacognitive skill-building.

## Course Evaluation Criteria

Your score provides a percentage score and letter grade for each course. A passing percentage is 70% or higher.

There are a total of 1000 points in the course:

Assessment	Points	Learning Outcomes
Checkpoint 1: Teaching as a Career	5	1, 9
Checkpoint 2: The Teaching Profession and You	15	1, 2, 9
Benchmark 1: Checkpoints 1-2	35	1
Checkpoint 3: Mindsets and Multiple Intelligences	5	2, 9
Checkpoint 4: Different Ways of Learning	15	1, 2, 9
Benchmark 2: Checkpoints 3-4	35	1, 2
Checkpoint 5: Teaching Your Diverse Students	5	2, 3, 9
Benchmark 3: Checkpoint 5	35	3
Capstone 1: ESL Lesson Plan with Accommodations List	75	1, 3, 9
Checkpoint 6: The Colonial Period	5	1, 4
Checkpoint 7: Educational Reform	5	1, 4
Benchmark 4: Checkpoints 6-7	35	4
Benchmark 5: Checkpoints 1-7	125	1, 2, 3, 4
Checkpoint 8: Philosophy of Education	5	1, 5
Checkpoint 9: Psychological Influences on Education	5	1, 5
Capstone 2: Philosophy of Education Video Analysis	75	1, 5
Checkpoint 10: Funding, Equity, and Access	5,	1, 6
Checkpoint 11: Financing, Governing, and America's Schools	15	1, 6, 9
Benchmark 6: Checkpoints 10-11	35	6

Assessment	Points	Learning Outcomes
Checkpoint 12: School Goals	5	1, 7
Checkpoint 13: Purposes of America's Schools and the Current Reform Movement	15	1, 8, 9
Benchmark 7: Checkpoints 12-13	35	8
Checkpoint 14: Types of Curriculum	5	1, 8
Checkpoint 15: Curriculum, Standards, & Testing	15	1, 8, 9
Benchmark 8: Checkpoints 14-15	35	8
Checkpoint 16: What Makes an Effective Teacher?	5	1, 9
Checkpoint 17: Becoming an Effective Teacher	15	1, 8, 9
Benchmark 9: Checkpoints 16-17	35	1, 8, 9
Benchmark 10: Checkpoints 1-17	300	5, 6, 7, 8
Total	1000	

## Course Roadmap

This roadmap provides an overview of the checkpoints and lessons covered in this course.

### Checkpoint 1: Teaching as a Career

- Watch and Learn: Teaching and Learning
- Read: Textbook Chapter 1: pp. 1-12
- Instructional Video: Teachers Discuss the Pros and Cons of Teaching

### Checkpoint 2: The Teaching Profession and You

- Read: Textbook Chapter 1: pp.12-19
- Read: Textbook Chapter 1: pp.19-23
- Instructional Video: The Crusade to Educate Teachers

### Checkpoint 3: Mindsets and Multiple Intelligences

- Read: Textbook Chapter 2: pp.28-34
- Instructional Video: Multiple Intelligences in Action

### Checkpoint 4: Different Ways of Learning

- Read: Textbook Chapter 2: pp.34-44
- Read: Textbook Chapter 2: pp.44-54
- Instructional Video: Including Students with Special Needs

### **Checkpoint 5: Teaching Your Diverse Students**

- Read: Textbook Chapter 3: pp.59-67
- Instructional Video: Dr. David Sadker Identifies Classroom Bias through a Role Play
- Read: Textbook Chapter 3: pp.68-78
- Read: Textbook Chapter 3: pp.68-78
- Instructional Video: High School Students Discuss Issues They Face as Immigrants

### **Checkpoint 6: The Colonial Period**

- Watch and Learn: Foundations of Schools 1
- Read: Textbook Chapter 5: pp.132-135

### **Checkpoint 7: Educational Reform**

- Read: Textbook Chapter 5: pp.135-144
- Instructional Video: The Common School and the Teaching Profession
- Read: Textbook Chapter 5: pp.145-163
- Instructional Video: Social Change: Desegregating Schools

### **Checkpoint 8: Philosophy of Education**

- Watch and Learn: Foundations of Schools 2
- Read: Textbook Chapter 6: pp.167-185

### **Checkpoint 9: Psychological Influences on Education**

- Read: Textbook Chapter 6: pp.186-187
- Read: Textbook Chapter 6: pp.188-193
- Instructional Video: Essentialism in Action: A Classroom Lesson

### **Checkpoint 10: Funding, Equity, and Action**

- Read: Textbook Chapter 7: pp.197-211

### **Checkpoint 11: Financing and Governing America's Schools**

- Read: Textbook Chapter 7: pp.212-214
- Read: Textbook Chapter 7: pp.215-227
- Instructional Video: School Board Meeting to Discuss Application for Jamie Escalante Charter School

### **Checkpoint 12: School Goals**

- Watch and Learn: Schools and Classrooms
- Read: Textbook Chapter 9: pp.269-275

### **Checkpoint 13: Purposes of America's Schools and the Current Reform Movement**

- Read: Textbook Chapter 9: pp.276-291
- Instructional Video: Tour of a Boston Charter School
- Read: Textbook Chapter 9: pp.291-300
- Instructional Video: Alternate Visions Second-Chance Schools Educational Remedies

#### Checkpoint 14: Types of Curriculum

- Read: Textbook Chapter 10: pp.310-318
- Instructional Video: Alternative Assessment Portfolios

#### Checkpoint 15: Curriculum, Standards, & Testing

- Read: Textbook Chapter 10: pp.319-324
- Read: Textbook Chapter 10: pp.325-342
- Instructional Video: Explaining Standardized Test Scores to Parents: A Dramatization

#### Checkpoint 16: What Makes an Effective Teacher?

- Read: Textbook Chapter 11: pp.351-373
- Instructional Video: Classroom Management

#### Checkpoint 17: Becoming an Effective Teacher

- Read: Textbook Chapter 11: pp.374-382
- Instructional Video: A Guided Tour of Technology in Today's Classroom
- Read: Textbook Chapter 11: pp.383-386

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### Related Courses

#### ECE102

Early Childhood  
Development

[View Course →](#)

#### ECE103

Teaching Students with  
Exceptionalities

[View Course →](#)

#### ECE104

Classroom Management

[View Course →](#)