

COURSE MODULES

LEVEL 1.1

Academic Writing & Presentation

This module focuses on critical thinking, academic writing as well as presentation and listening skills. The module aims to equip students with the skills necessary to carry out academic writing and presentation. Finding and evaluating academic sources, reading, annotation, essay planning and writing and presentation skills will be developed in this module.

Career & Professional Preparation I

This module helps to give students a foundational introduction to their three-year diploma course curriculum and how it prepares them for industry. It will help them to embark on their three-year course with the end in mind, through guided reflection of their personal characteristics, and producing an overall game plan for their future education and career goals. The module aims to deepen students' commitment to the sector that the course prepares them for.

Children's Health & Socio-emotional Well-being

This module examines the physical growth and psychological well-being of children in relation to nutrition and hygiene related conditions. It is also designed to help students understand health practices that will enable them to foster positive health and safety behaviours for teachers and children. Students will be equipped with basic skills and knowledge in stress management, and also in detecting and understanding child abuse and neglect.

Developmental Psychology & Learning 1

This module examines the nature of human development from ages zero to eight. Students will appreciate the holistic nature of development, the biological foundation, pre-natal development, brain research and major developmental theories in relation to physical, social, cognitive and emotional development. Students will be introduced to child study and observation techniques. Applications of theory to help students' understanding of how children learn and its implications on curriculum design will be included in the module.

Perspectives in Early Education

This module lets students study early education from historical, cultural, and contemporary perspectives. The module covers the tenets of early childhood education, developmentally, culturally and individually appropriate practices and the role of play in the lives of children zero to eight years old. Models of approaches in education will also be examined. An overview of education in Singapore, its desired outcomes, and the transition from pre-school to primary school will be covered.

The Professional Practitioner

This module explores the roles of professionals working with children, families, other professionals and agencies in the community. A range of issues related to the profession will be examined, including the roles of educators, the stages of professional development; the code of ethics, reflective practice, and advocacy.

Sports & Wellness[^]

This module helps students to learn a sport as a recreational activity to keep them fit and healthy. Team building and collaboration skills are developed as they network with other students. There are a total of 19 sports electives to choose from; these include sports such as aerobics, badminton, basketball, soccer and volleyball.

LEVEL 1.2

Business Communication

This module prepares students to communicate effectively in business settings. Students will learn both oral and written communication skills that demonstrate concepts of business communication principles, interpersonal skills

and intercultural skills. Topics such as proposal and report writing, elevator pitch and professional presentation will be covered.

Developmental Psychology & Learning 2

This module builds on students' understanding of the major theories of developmental psychology as they relate to a child's physical, cognitive, social and emotional development from zero to eight. Students will learn about psychology theories and research related to development of moral understanding, gender role and intelligence. Students will evaluate, synthesise and apply these key developmental theories and research to understand how children think and learn. Implications for curriculum design will be explored.

Introduction to Children's Literature

This module introduces students to children's literature and how it has reflected cultural, social and ideological change. Students will examine the ways in which the child has been depicted in literature, learn to appreciate and critique different genre of children's books and be able to select age-appropriate books for young children. A study of children's television and drama is included.

IT Applications

This module develops e-competencies by equipping students with the essential computing concepts and necessary skills to use computer applications for information research, organisation, collaboration and presentation.

Language & Literacy

This module allows students to apply language development theories to the design, organisation and provision of a literacy-rich and developmentally appropriate learning environment for children from birth to eight years old. Students will explore different approaches and techniques of supporting young children's literacy development. The challenges of teaching children from diverse linguistic backgrounds and the development of home language and bilingualism will also be explored.

Practicum 1*

This module serves as a practicum to extend students' competence in relation to the practical aspects of working with young children in early childhood settings. It supports students' learning in the modules of Developmental Psychology and Learning 1, Perspectives in Early Education, The Professional Practitioner, and Children's Health and Socio-emotional Well-being. Students will be involved in daily routines of the school, assisting the host teacher and engage in reflective writing.

** This module will begin after the exam week of the previous semester*

COURSE CURRICULUM

Module Name	Credit Units
YEAR 1	
Level 1.1 (20 hours per week)	
Academic Writing & Presentation	4
Career & Professional Preparation I	2
Children's Health & Socio-emotional Well-being	4
Developmental Psychology & Learning 1	4
Perspectives in Early Education	4
Sport & Wellness ^	2
Level 1.2 (27 hours per week)	
Business Communication	4
Business Communication	4

Introduction to Children's Literature	4
IT Applications	4
Language & Literacy	4
Practicum 1	7

Notes:

^ For more details on Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) electives, please log on to www.np.edu.sg/is/

IS Modules

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) delivers a broad-based curriculum, which nurtures a new generation of professionals with multidisciplinary skills and an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit to meet the challenges of a knowledge economy. IS offers both prescribed modules and electives to challenge boundaries. Prescribed modules develop students' competencies in core areas such as Communication, Innovation and Enterprise, Culture and Communication, and Personal Mastery and Development, while elective modules provide insights into Arts and Humanities, Business, Design, and Science and Technology.

COURSE MODULES

LEVEL 2.1

Career & Professional Preparation II

This module prepares students to write effective cover letters and resumes. Preparation and enhancement of portfolio to meet professional standards as well as development of presentation skills, and improvement of job-seeking techniques will also be covered in the module.

Collaboration with Families & Communities

This module equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to work with families and communities. Students will recognise the importance of the child's family and will explore different models and strategies to help them connect with the home, school and community. Policies and practices in relation to children, families and the communities as well as theories on the changing family, family policies and support networks will also be introduced.

Early Mathematics

This module gives students the knowledge and skills required to plan, implement and evaluate mathematical experiences in early childhood settings. The principles and concepts, which underpin children's learning in mathematics from early childhood, will be examined. Students will learn how to use appropriate materials, resources and space in designing developmentally appropriate mathematical activities for young children with a diverse range of needs in a multi-cultural and multi-lingual society. Students will engage in hands-on activities and field explorations. They will be expected to adopt teaching strategies that nurture children's thinking, helping them to become problem solvers and abstract thinkers.

Psychology of Exceptional Children

This module introduces students to exceptional competencies in children zero to eight years old. This includes children with physical, mental, learning, behavioural, and sensory characteristics and special gifts and talents that make them different. Educational considerations as a result of individual differences will also be introduced.

The Child & the Creative Curriculum

This module introduces students to the creative arts for children. Theories related to creativity and aesthetic development will help students understand and implement creative art-based integrated approaches to learning. They will gain insights into children's thinking and their world by analysing their creative expressions. Students will also analyse the teacher's role in enhancing creativity as well as in planning, implementing child-centred and age-appropriate activities for the creative arts.

The Learning Environment & Classroom Management

This module examines a range of factors in designing the learning environment and conditions that influence children's behaviour. Students will learn to conduct observations to understand the thinking and behaviour of children; reflect on the contributing factors and use developmentally appropriate guidance strategies in the classroom setting.

LEVEL 2.2

Curriculum Planning & Design

This module provides students with an overview of quality educational programmes. Strategies that promote thinking, physical and socio-emotional development will guide the planning and design of pre-school curriculum. Students will review the different curriculum models including the Pre-school Curriculum Framework in Singapore and develop skills in devising appropriate learning outcomes for all children. Students will also be introduced to models and curriculum approaches to support children's inquiry in a global society.

Environment & Social Awareness in Children

This module emphasises the importance of instilling a sense of curiosity and wonder in children to explore and discover their physical and social environment. Students will develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to plan and facilitate developmentally and culturally appropriate experiences to empower young children to construct their understanding of local culture, heritage and the environment to become socially competent and responsible citizens of the community.

Infant & Toddler Learning Environment

This module explores the different theoretical perspectives and practical experiences of a child's first three years. In addition, learning environment and programming issues are addressed. Developmentally appropriate caregiving practices in relation to understanding of temperaments and attachment of the child and adult-child interaction will also be covered.

Practicum 2*

This module continues to strengthen students' competence, through a second practicum that further anchors students' competence in relation to the practical aspects of working with young children in early childhood settings. It will support students' learning in the modules of Developmental Psychology and Learning 1 and 2, the modules related to learning environments, aesthetics and numeracy as well as classroom and behaviour management. Students will plan and implement experiences for children in the class which he/she is placed, assist the host teacher and engage in reflective writing.

** This module will begin after the exam week of the previous semester*

The Inclusive Curriculum

This module builds on students' understanding of the psychology of exceptional children aged zero to eight years old. Students are introduced to selected models of inclusion of children with special needs in educational settings, role of educators in inclusive setting, features of an inclusive curriculum and the physical elements of an inclusive classroom. Students will also learn basic strategies to enable both typically developing and exceptional children to develop acceptance and friendship. They will also revisit selected child observation tools and the appropriate guidance strategies for the overall management of the class.

Collaboration with parents and strategies to promote awareness and acceptance will be included.

COURSE CURRICULUM

Module Name	Credit Units
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YEAR 2

Level 2.1 (22 hours per week)

Career & Professional Preparation II	2
Collaboration with Families & Communities	4
Early Mathematics	4
Psychology of Exceptional Children	4
The Child & the Creative Curriculum	4
The Learning Environment & Classroom Management	4

Level 2.2 (29 hours per week)

Infant & Toddler Learning Environment	4
Curriculum Planning & Design	4
Environment & Social Awareness in Children	4
Practicum 2	13
The Inclusive Curriculum	4

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COURSE MODULES

LEVEL 3.1

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING TRACK

Assessment & Differentiated Instructions

This module provides an overview of the skills and techniques to identify, assess and support learning, behavioural, psycho-social and communication need in young children who are at risk of developing learning and behavioural challenges. Using the linked system of assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; students will be introduced to an array of assessment tools and the approaches involved in differentiating instructions to address specific needs of children in a mainstream pre-school classroom.

Capstone Project

This module brings the students through the experience of developing, implementing and presenting a project which is intended to improve teaching practice and/or benefit the community. The project will allow students to demonstrate interdisciplinary knowledge, investigative skills and their character traits and values. Students will learn to write project proposals, make decisions, solve problems and think critically.

Career & Professional Preparation III

This module equips participants with personal grooming skills required in a professional setting. Students will be taught grooming and social etiquette as well as appropriate dressing. Other topics include making small talk and handling difficult conversations.

Drama for Socio-emotional Learning in Children

This module helps students address the social and emotional learning needs of children in the early years' classrooms. Through creative drama, students learn to engage children in situations that mirror those in real life. Using real-life experiences and stories, students will help guide the children to take on different perspectives and explore new situations. Role-play and dialogue provide a platform for students to learn to work with children to embark on 'self-discovery of the world around them'.

Teaching Techniques for Pre-school Education

This module brings students through the process of classroom teaching with focus on affective, instructional and organisational interactions. The module will help students develop self-awareness of their own teaching techniques in indoor and outdoor settings, during large group and small group activity time and in structured and unstructured environments.

World Issues: A Singapore Perspective^

This module develops a student's ability to think critically on world issues. Students will discuss a wide range of social, political and cultural issues from the Singapore perspective. It also looks at how city-state Singapore defied the odds to achieve more than half a century of rapid economic growth, political stability and social harmony.

EARLY INTERVENTION (SPECIAL NEEDS) TRACK

Assessment of Young Children

This module provides an overview of the skills and techniques to identifying and assessing learning, behavioural, psycho-social and communication needs in young children with special needs or those who are at risk of developing learning and behavioural challenges. Students will be introduced to an array of assessment tools to help them understand children and be able to develop appropriate IEP goals. The cycle of assessing, planning, implementing, monitoring, reflecting and reassessing will be addressed.

Career & Professional Preparation III

This module equips students with personal grooming skills required in a professional setting. Students will be taught grooming and social etiquette as well as appropriate dressing. Other topics include making small talk and handling difficult conversations.

Childhood Disorders & Disabilities

This module introduces students to the definitions, symptoms and causes of selected disorders and disabilities which are usually first diagnosed in infancy and childhood, according to the Diagnostic Statistic Manual of Mental Disorders. Development of typically and atypically developing children will be compared. The manner and extent in which such disorders and disabilities impact a child's overall development will also be examined.

Early Intervention & Teaching Approaches

This module introduces students to the development of the Individualised Educational Plan (IEP) - a systematic plan that describes and prescribes the learning needs for the exceptional child. Students will also be introduced to a variety of activity-based strategies to help children with special needs develop language, literacy, social and functional skills as well as methods to manage their behaviours.

Issues & Trends in Early Intervention

This module introduces students to the field of early intervention (special needs) in both inclusive and specialised settings for children aged zero to eight years old. Students will examine the definitions, approaches and the inter- and multi-disciplinary services of early intervention in Singapore and internationally. Different theoretical perspectives, trends and latest developments will be examined. Policies and advocacy will be discussed and students will explore issues related to suitable placements for young children with special needs.

World Issues: A Singapore Perspective^

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LEVEL 3.2

6-Month Internship / Project

This module provides the opportunity for students to go on an industry internship attachment or undertake a final-year project. The Internship/Project Programme enables students to acquire the work experience needed for their chosen areas of interest, with professional practitioners acting as mentors. The organisations involved are selected for their capacity to allow students to learn different aspects of work in the industry concerned. The students learning outcomes are assessed by their respective field mentors and Ngee Ann supervisors. Students could also work closely with industry partners on projects that will benefit children, families and the community.

COURSE CURRICULUM

Module Name	Credit Units
YEAR 3	
Level 3.1 (20 hours per week)	
EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING TRACK	
Assessment & Differentiated Instructions	4
Capstone Project	4
Career & Professional Preparation III	2
Drama for Socio-emotional Learning in Children	4
Teaching Techniques for Pre-school Education	4
World Issues: A Singapore Perspective ^	2
EARLY INTERVENTION (SPECIAL NEEDS) TRACK	
Assessment of Young Children	4
Career & Professional Preparation III	2
Childhood Disorders & Disabilities	4
Early Intervention & Teaching Approaches	4
Issues & Trends in Early Intervention	4
World Issues: A Singapore Perspective ^	2
Level 3.2	
6-Month Internship / Project	22

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