

Professional Preparation

Early Intervention courses are cross-listed in Social Work and Family & Human Development reflecting the transdisciplinary nature of both course content and the discipline of early intervention.

Required Courses:

CDE 444/SWU 446 (3) FS
Risk & Variation in Child
Development

CDE 337/SWU 337 (3) FS
Early Intervention

CDE 437/SWU 437 Infant Family
Assessment & Observation (3) FS

CDE 338 Child Development
Practicum (3) FS
FAS 484 Internship (5) FS

or

SWU 412 Field Instruction I (5) FS
SWU 414 Field Instruction II (3) FS

*The Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), a division within the state's Department of Economic Security responsible for the administration of Part C early intervention services, is currently developing a credentialing system which will soon require these courses for all early interventionists and service coordinators in the state.

For More Information

On Admission to the School of Social Work, please contact:

ASU School of Social Work Student Support /Admission (480-965-6081)

Regarding the certificate program:

<http://ssw.asu.edu/degreeprograms.html>

On a major or minor in Family and Human Development:

Lois Goldblatt, Undergraduate Advisor, (480-965-3130)

Department of Family and Human Development

On the Early Intervention Training Program:

Barbara Weigand, Coordinator (480-965-1538)

References:

Shonkoff, J. P. & Meisels, S. J. (2000) *Handbook of Early Childhood Intervention*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Oser, C. & Ayankoya, B. (2000) The Early Interventionist. *Zero to Three*. 21, 2.

**ARIZONA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

EARLY INTERVENTION CERTIFICATE



The Department of Family
and Human Development

and

The School of Social Work

What is early intervention?

Many children are born into conditions that jeopardize their chances for positive developmental outcomes, such as poverty, child abuse, community violence, parental substance abuse, physical and neurological vulnerabilities, malnutrition, and inadequate pre-and pos-natal care. *Early intervention specialists* work in multi-disciplinary teams providing a variety of services to families in need of support to ensure the healthy development for their very young children.

Early childhood intervention consists of multidisciplinary services provided to children from birth to 5 years of age to promote child health and well-being, enhance emerging competencies, minimize developmental delays, remediate existing or emerging disabilities, prevent functional deterioration, and promote adaptive parenting and overall family functioning. These goals are accomplished by providing individual developmental, educational, and therapeutic services for children in conjunction with mutually planned support for their families (Miesels & Shonkoff, 2000)

Some early interventionists provide services directly to children, while other work primarily with parents and/or other family members. Still others work primarily as case managers or service coordinators.

Early Intervention includes a variety of service delivery systems:

Part C Early Intervention refers to services and supports that help to achieve the goals of Part C of IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This legislation is intended to enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities; to minimize their potential for developmental delay; to minimize the need for special education services in school; to maximize the potential for independent living in society; and to enhance the capacity of families to meet the special needs of their infants and toddlers with disabilities (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments, 1997). These services are provided by multidisciplinary teams with families as essential partners.

Early Head Start is the Head Start initiative that serves pregnant women and low-income families with infants and toddlers. Its mission is to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children, and promote healthy family functioning. Both home-based and center-based services are provided. Early Head Start services are multidisciplinary and are both home-based and center-based.

Infant/Toddler Mental Health

is a field dedicated to understanding and treating children from birth to three years of age within the context of family, care giving, and community relationships. The field is broad and interdisciplinary, embracing professionals from many disciplines, including social work, child welfare, education, speech and language, occupational and physical therapy, child and family development, psychology, nursing, pediatrics and psychiatry. Infant mental health services are provided in such programs as **Healthy Families Arizona** and include:

- ◆ Concrete assistance for a family's immediate needs
- ◆ Emotional support for families facing immediate crisis related to care of their children
- ◆ Developmental guidance including information that is specific to their baby's developmental needs
- ◆ Early relationship assessment and support in which multiple opportunities to build and use their relationship with the practitioner to nurture, protect, steady and enhance their understanding of their baby
- ◆ Advocacy – both for the infant and for the parent