The University of Maine at Farmington announces a unique opportunity for working professionals to complete a Bachelor’s degree program in Early Childhood Education. UMF will offer evening and weekend Early Childhood Education classes to allow you to earn a Bachelor’s degree while continuing your employment.

How will this program be different than the program on campus?
Courses will be offered at times that meet the needs of working professionals. The class formats will include face-to-face, distance learning, and, for students who live within driving distance, some courses may be taken on the UMF campus in late afternoons or evenings.

The Early Childhood Education required courses will be offered in southern Maine at Southern Maine Community College. Some of the required courses will be offered online and through other distance learning methods.

What are the requirements for admission?
An Associate’s degree in Early Childhood Education or an equivalent is required. Some equivalent majors for the Associate’s degree include: Human Services, Arts and Science with an Early Childhood concentration, or Child Development. If you have an Associate’s degree with a different concentration, UMF staff will be happy to review your transcript to determine if it meets the admission requirement.

How do I apply to the Off-Campus Program?
Applications for this program are available through the UMF Admissions Office. Contact Chris Yardley at yardley@maine.edu or by phone 207-778-7065. Applications are also available at http://umf.maine.edu/cohort/

Complete the University of Maine System application, preferably a copy with an indication or stamp “ECE Off-Campus Program.” If you find that you have an application without this indication or stamp, please write a note or cover letter to indicate you are applying to the University of Maine at Farmington ECE Off-Campus Bachelor’s Degree Program.

Complete the essay requested in the application. An appropriate focus for the essay would be (1) How a Bachelor’s degree in ECE will further your professional goals and (2) Why you have selected the Off-Campus Bachelor’s Degree Program.

Next, have your official transcripts mailed directly from the institution you attended to:
Application Processing
University of Maine System
P.O. Box 412
Bangor, ME 04402-0412

Another option is to fill out the University of Maine System application online. Indicate that you are applying to UMF and include a cover letter that you are applying to the Early Childhood Education Off-Campus Bachelor’s Degree Program.
How many credits are required for the UMF Bachelor’s degree?
UMF requires 128 credits to complete the Bachelor’s degree. Of those 128 credits, 40 credits hours must be in general education courses in specific subject areas. The remaining hours will be in Early Childhood Education and electives. Keep in mind, at least 32 of the 128 credits must be UMF credits. You will earn UMF credits for the courses that will be offered through the Off-Campus program. Your advisor will help you plan course selections to meet these requirements. You will already have 60+ credits completed as part of your Associate’s degree. General education courses can be taken at different campuses and transferred to UMF.

Are all the courses required for the Bachelor’s degree delivered by UMF?
UMF will offer the professional component of the Early Childhood courses through the off-campus program. The General Education courses are available online, at local University of Maine System campuses or Community College campuses. Your advisor will help you select appropriate general education courses to complete your degree.

How will the courses be offered?
UMF will offer one or two courses in Early Childhood Education per semester at Southern Maine Community College. Delivery methods will include distance learning, traditional face-to-face and a hybrid method of face-to-face and online.

Can I take the entire degree program online?
No, most professionals have indicated that they like face-to-face courses, especially for the Early Childhood Education curriculum courses. In response to this preference, the ECE curriculum courses will be delivered in the face-to-face format while other courses will be offered through distance learning methods.

How many courses am I required to take at one time?
In order to complete the degree within four or five years, we are expecting participants to take the professional courses when they are offered.

We are offering the courses in a sequence that will allow you to complete your Early Childhood Education courses in a timely manner, if you take the courses as they are offered.

Where do I find more information about financial aid?
Financial aid for this program is available through the University of Maine at Farmington. Maine Roads to Quality is also a source of scholarships. Qualifications and deadlines for these sources vary. For more information contact:
UMF Financial Aid Call 778-7100 or E-mail umfaid@maine.edu
Maine Roads to Quality Call 780-5833 or see website at Muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads

What exactly are the required courses that will be offered Off-Campus?
ECH 201 Language Development, Early Literacy and Children’s Literature
ECS 307 Addressing Developmental Differences in Young Children
ECH 256 Creative Arts and Technology for the Young Child
ECH 232 Social Science for the Young Child
ECH 336 Development of Math Concepts in Young Children
ECH 384 Science Education for Young Children
ECH 450 Senior Seminar: Research in Early Childhood
ECH 490 Internship in Early Childhood Education
Two upper level courses are also required and will be offered Off-Campus as well

How do I know how the courses from my Associate’s degree transfer to UMF?
The UMF off-campus program advisor will develop an individual plan with you which includes how your Associate’s degree courses transferred to UMF. UMF has articulation agreements with most of the Community Colleges in Maine and we have already determined course equivalents with the existing Associate’s degree programs.

How can I obtain more information about the program?
You can find out more about the program by contacting Carolyn Drugge at 207-778-7274 or by email at carolyn.drugge@maine.edu