

College of the Canyons Early Childhood Education Department's Conceptual Framework

As a cohesive faculty our pedagogical practices including the following:

Consistency - Our faculty use the same textbooks and similar assignments to give our students an equitable and consistent experience whenever the class is offered face to face or online while respecting the autonomy of faculty. Within our department, we share our resources and collaborate to write and revise Open Educational Resource textbooks for our core 8 courses. We hold weekly department meetings. We have built relationships with the Center and other community partners, fostering community connection.

Intentionality - We encourage our students to become practitioners that are intentional, mindful, present, and engaged. We provide learning opportunities that require students to observe children, plan how to meet their needs, and reflect on the process.

Transparency - We make the learning opportunities that we create for our students transparent by including the purpose of assignments, connecting them to the student learning outcomes, CA ECE competencies, key elements of the professional standards, and providing rubrics that articulate expectations.

Equity-Minded Relationships. The role of relationships, cultural responsiveness, and equity is woven throughout our program. Strong relationships build the connections needed to create a community of learners. This practice models strong communication skills that they will use in their work with children, families, and communities.

Engagement - Our pedagogy of teaching utilizes hands-on experiences that are engaging to students and connect theory to practice. Our faculty take pride in engaging the students to perform the skills of a well-trained professional, not just read or write about them. This includes scaffolding and project-based learning where students demonstrate their knowledge and skills.

Continual Professional Growth and Learning - Our faculty have diverse experiences and perspectives, but a shared passion for making a difference in the lives of young children and their families. Faculty focus on reflective attitudes to encourage professional growth and learning through intentional modeling of their participation in professional organizations and professional development. We offer many professional development opportunities to our students throughout their course of study.

Compassion: As an engaging and supportive faculty, we honor the individual needs of our students. We survey our students, in most of our classes, to find out the collective knowledge and experiences in each grouping and adjust accordingly.