

## **FREQUENTLIY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. How long will it take to finish the coursework?**

If you stay with your cohort and take two classes per semester, you will finish the coursework in four semesters.

### **2. Can I get a job working with children birth through Grade 3 before I finish all of my coursework?**

Yes, sometimes schools will hire teachers at any point in their coursework, as long as they are enrolled in this program. Many districts expect that you will finish this program within a specified period of time (i.e. 3 years).

### **3. Do I need to have a Bachelors degree in a specific field to apply for this program?**

You **MUST** have a degree in one of the following areas: family studies, family and consumer sciences, elementary education, or special education. A degree in early childhood may also qualify but needs to be approved by the Public Education Department or Santa Fe Community College.

### **4. Are there any prerequisites upon entry into this program?**

Yes. You must have some college-level coursework in Child Growth and Development or an equivalent. You can take a course before you enter this program or in the first semester. An equivalent could be multiple, continuous years working with young children.

### **5. Do I need to be a teacher to start this program?**

No. However, it is recommended and encouraged that you be in an early childhood setting. Many of the courses require a 10-hour field component, where you need access to settings with young children. Also, taking this coursework alongside being with young children will also allow you to apply this information more readily. In the last semester, you will be taking EDUC 257: Field Experience in Early Childhood Education, which will be a form of student teaching.

### **6. Can you tell me more about EDUC 257: Field Experience in Early Childhood Education?**

This is the capstone experience in this program. You are expected to be in a lead position in an early childhood setting for a minimum of 150 hours during the semester. There are three options in this class:

- a. If you are a lead teacher now, you can use your own classroom as your field experience site,
- b. If you are a lead teacher now and have had more than one year of experience in this setting, you can follow the portfolio route (more information will follow as you get closer to taking this class), or
- c. You can find a placement working under the guidance and supervision of a qualified early childhood educator (similar to a student teaching placement).

**7. Since this program is only and fully online, what kind of experience with technology should I have?**

To be successful in online classes, it is critical that you have your computer up-to-date as possible. This helps you send and receive messages quickly, as well as have the ability to view videos online. One of the most important skills to have is to be able to understand your word processing program so that you can write your assignments, save them, and send as an attachment. In each course, you will be sending all assignments as an attachment so that your instructor can give you feedback within the body of your work.