EDUCATION STUDIES

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The undergraduate program in Education Studies provides a structure for students interested in educational institutions, policy, teaching, and learning. The program also promotes a multidisciplinary understanding of the role of education historically, socially, politically, and economically.

Any Yale College student interested in education may take the foundation course in education studies, EDST 110. This lecture course explores the historical, philosophical, and theoretical underpinnings of the field and helps students understand the critical role of education in society. The course examines aspects of education practice, research, and policy.

While Yale does not offer a teaching certificate program, students can apply to become a Yale Education Studies Undergraduate Scholar. The program selects students with appropriate background and interest in educational practice, research, and/or policy, and develops their experience and involvement in issues related to education.

The Education Studies Undergraduate Scholars program establishes an interdisciplinary cohort of scholars drawn from Yale College freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Each Education Studies Scholar develops a course plan within the Education Studies curriculum that advances their interests in one of the various aspects of education studies, culminating in a capstone seminar. Education Studies Scholars gain practical experience through an appropriate academic-year or summer educational opportunity, and they explore educational topics through collaboration, colloquia, and advising relationships with mentors.

Students may apply to the Education Studies Undergraduate Scholars program in their freshman or sophomore year after they have successfully completed the foundation course, EDST 110. The application includes a statement of interest in some aspect of education research, practice, and/or policy; an official or unofficial transcript of courses taken at Yale; and a letter of reference from a Yale College faculty member supporting the student in terms of character, motivation, and academic promise.

Courses

EDST 110a or b, Foundations in Education Studies  Elizabeth Carroll
Introduction to key issues and debates in the U.S. public education system. Focus on the nexus of education practice, policy, and research. Social, scientific, economic, and political forces that shape approaches to schooling and education reform. Theoretical and practical perspectives from practitioners, policymakers, and scholars.  SO

*EDST 125a / CHLD 125a / PSYC 125a, Child Development  Nancy Close and Carla Horwitz
The reading of selected material with supervised participant-observer experience in infant programs, a day-care and kindergarten center, or a family day-care program. Regularly scheduled seminar discussions emphasize both theory and practice. An assumption of the course is that it is not possible to understand children — their behavior and development — without understanding their parents and the relationship between child and parents. The focus is on infancy as well as early childhood. Enrollment limited to juniors and seniors.  WR, SO

*EDST 127a / CHLD 127a / PSYC 127a, Early Childhood Education: Implications of Curriculum and Policy  Carla Horwitz
Development of curricula for preschool children — infants through five-year-olds — in light of current research and child development theory.  WR, SO RP

*EDST 128b / CHLD 128b / PSYC 128b, Language, Literacy, and Play  Nancy Close and Carla Horwitz
The complicated role of play in the development of language and literacy skills among preschool-aged children. Topics include social-emotional, cross-cultural, cognitive, and communicative aspects of play.  WR, SO RP

*EDST 191a or b / CHLD 126a or b, Clinical Child Development and Assessment of Young Children  Nancy Close
Exposure to both conceptual material and clinical observations on the complexity of assessing young children and their families.  SO

½ Course cr

*EDST 220b / AMST 323b, History of Higher Education in the United States  George Levesque
The history and evolution of higher education in the United States from the colonial era to the present. Emphasis on changes in the profile of students, the role of the faculty, and the scope of the curriculum. Special attention to how these changes reflected larger developments in American intellectual, cultural, and social history. Recommended preparation: EDST 110. Preference to Education Studies Scholars. May not be taken after HIST 014.  HU

*EDST 230b, American Education and the Law  William Garfinkel
Interactions between American primary-school education and the American legal system, with a focus on historical and contemporary case law. The relationship between schooling and the state; constitutional, statutory, and regulatory law governing the rights and responsibilities of educators, students, and parents; equal educational opportunity. Recommended preparation: EDST 110. Preference to Education Studies Scholars.  SO