

Eastern Kentucky University is a nationally recognized public university located in Richmond, Kentucky. EKU began offering online degrees in 2006 and continues to service students with both on-campus and online offerings.

BENEFITS

- Accelerated 8-week terms
- Personalized graduation plan
- Free textbooks for all students with [EKU BookSmart](#)
- No application fee
- [Reduced tuition for active duty military members and their spouses](#)
- Credit hours that count toward the Child Development Associate (CDA) and can be applied toward your state's credentials**
- Free online tutoring and career services assistance
- Coursework including child development and family studies that incorporates National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) professional preparation standards
- Two practicum experiences to help you discover your calling
- Quality courses from respected faculty who teach the same classes online and on campus
- Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* among the best universities offering online degrees

***Review your state's requirements and speak to your advisor about how your coursework may transfer.*

100% Online Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Studies

EKU's 100% online child and family studies program prepares you to work with children in educational, institutional and human service settings. Early childhood education and development is a rewarding career that allows you to leave a lasting impression on the lives of children from various backgrounds as you work to ensure they reach their developmental milestones and achieve their full potential.



100%
ONLINE



\$443 PER
CREDIT HOUR

UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATES

- [Infant/Toddler Care and Education Certificate](#)
- [Early Childhood Director Certificate](#)
- [Family Studies Certificate](#)

SPECIAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- TB Skin Test
- Criminal Background Check
- Professional Liability Insurance

Child and family studies courses require interaction with children and/or the elderly. Therefore, a criminal background check and negative TB skin test results are required prior to registering for some classes. Speak with an advisor for details. If you have a record of criminal behavior or positive TB results, you may be required to drop the course(s) and select another major. In addition, some courses will require Professional Liability Insurance (PLI).



[Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Studies](#)

521 Lancaster Ave.
Richmond, KY 40475

859-622-4455 | onlinedegrees@eku.edu

CORE COURSES

Introduction to the Family - CDF 132

Ecological and systems approach applied to public and private family concepts; historical changes and current status; relationships among individuals, families, consumers, and communities; status of women, men, children and the elderly; public policy related to changes in the family.

Child Development: Conception-Eight Years - CDF 235

Developmental characteristics and theory pertinent to children conception to age eight. Special emphasis on early childhood theoretical frameworks.

Interaction and Guidance - CDF 236

Overview of guidance strategies in fostering children's social competency within group or individually. Adults' role in various interactions (e.g. parent-child, teacher-child) and resources for working with families/parents (e.g. parent education workshop) will be explored.

Family Involvement with Young Children - CDF 327S

Study of effective relationships with families. Methods and materials useful in fostering family life education, including adult learning principles. Experiences include implementing family service plans, planning discussion groups, conducting home visits, and parent-teacher conferences. Includes 15 service learning hours.

Diversity Awareness Professional Practice - CDF 424

Professionals working with individuals and families today must develop cultural competency. With a focus on sensitivity and respect, this course provides an overview of diversity in society, including race, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, religion, and other forms of diversity.

Family Stress and Resilience - CDF 437

Study of stressors which may affect the quality of family life and resiliency factors which families and individuals employ to cope effectively with these stressors. Current research and models of family stress and resilience are studied.

Essentials of Nutrition - NFA 201

A scientific study of the essential nutrients and their application in meeting nutritional needs of all ages. Consideration is given to food selection, nutrition misinformation, obesity, and other common dietary problems.

Ethics & Advocacy in Family & Consumer Sciences - FCS 400

History and principles of the profession of Family and Consumer Sciences. Course emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of the field and its commitment to public policy activism to benefit individuals and families.

EKU UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG

CONCENTRATION COURSES

Philosophical & Historical Foundations of the EC Profession - CDF 203

An orientation to the profession: Exploration of the qualities, expectations, & responsibilities of an EC professional. Relationships among early learning standards, history of the profession, interdisciplinary fields, professional organizations, & philosophical approaches. Background check College approved procedure must be ordered and paid for by the first day of class.

Creative Activities and Materials for Young Children - CDF 246

Survey of learning experiences in various curriculum areas. Planning activities, including techniques and materials, to provide environment appropriate to the age and background of young children for the individual child based on age, ability, culture and ethnicity.

Observation and Assessment in ECE - CDF 310

Authentic assessment approaches through observation of children in natural environments. Intentional planning and implementation of Developmentally Appropriate Practice in EC settings. Special emphasis on linking assessment to the EC curriculum.

Early Childhood Literacy - CDF 363

An exploration of the emergent literacy development of young children within the language-rich context of play. Emphasis on state & national language arts standards, 2nd language learners, literacy assessment, resources for literacy instruction. Course material presented within theoretical context.

Early Childhood Practicum - CDF 399

Supervised practicum experience in programs serving young children & families. Focus on organizations at the public, private and non-profit sectors. Open to B.S. Child Development students only. Minimum of 160 hours of field experience.

Program Plan for Infant & Toddler - CDF 405

Planning, implementation, and evaluation of developmentally and culturally appropriate environments for infants and toddlers. Emphasis is placed on the caregiver-infant relationship, intentional teaching and curriculum/program assessment, laboratory and field experiences, and environmental adaptations for special needs.

Program Plan for Preschool Children - CDF 406

Planning, implementation, and evaluation of developmentally and culturally appropriate environments for preschool children. Emphasis on intentional teaching, curriculum/program assessment, inquiry learning, documentation, project work, collaborative work with families/colleagues/community, and various programs (e.g. Montessori, Head Start, High Scope).

Early Childhood Practicum - CDF 450

Practicum focusing on designing and equipping the environment, implementing learning experiences, developing strategies for guiding young children, and arranging effective communication for family involvement. Meetings for collaborative planning and reflective discussion to make program decisions.

Research Analysis in Child and Family Studies - CDF 538

Students will acquire the skills required to read and evaluate professional research literature in child and family studies by examining current studies. Students will also compare and contrast the treatment of current issues in their field in both popular and professional writing.

Organization and Administration of Early Childhood Programs - CDF 547

Review of the theories influencing the definition of goals, philosophies and rationales for establishment of early childhood programs (0-5), study of the procedures for organizing early childhood programs, and discussion of the management processes for administering quality early childhood programs.

SUPPORTING COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CHOOSE FROM 12 HOURS OF THE FOLLOWING:

Special Education in Early Childhood - SED 318

Overview of history, philosophy, legislation and services for young children (0-5) at-risk for or with disabilities, including impact and intervention across developmental domains.

Early Childhood Health Care - NSC 500

Focuses on the development of competencies necessary for health management of young children (ages birth through five years) with special health care needs. Appropriate for non-health care professionals in the community or classroom.

Early Child Sensorimotor Development - OTS 515

Provides an overview of normal sensorimotor development in infants and young children. Includes contrasting normal/ abnormal development and application of appropriate developmental tasks. Laboratory experiences will be provided.

Addictions - SWK 440

This course will examine how to assess, intervene, and treat individuals, families, and groups with substance abuse and other addictions. The course will examine addictions from a strengths perspective.

Children's Services - SWK 456

Critical appraisal of societal values of priorities underlying services to children. Examines range of services and skills used in social work practice with children; understanding psycho-social needs of children.

FREE ELECTIVES...8-11 HOURS OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

EXIT REQUIREMENTS

PRAXIS Examination

Students must register for and take the PRAXIS exam which correlates to their degree program, per College of Education requirements. Refer to Degree Works for exam details. The PRAXIS exam must be taken prior to student teaching.

TOTAL HOURS...120-132

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR, CERTIFICATE

Philosophical & Historical Foundations of the EC Profession - CDF 203

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Overview of guidance strategies in fostering childrens social competency within group or individually. Adults role in various interactions (e.g. parent-child, teacher-child) and resources for working with families/parents (e.g. parent education workshop) will be explored.

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Family Involvement with Young Children - CDF 327S

Study of effective relationships with families. Methods and materials useful in fostering family life education, including adult learning principles. Experiences include implementing family service plans, planning discussion groups, conducting home visits, and parent-teacher conferences. Includes 15 service learning hours.

Organization and Administration of Early Childhood Programs - CDF 547

Review of the theories influencing the definition of goals, philosophies and rationales for establishment of early childhood programs (0-5), study of the procedures for organizing early childhood programs, and discussion of the management processes for administering quality early childhood programs.

TOTAL HOURS...18

INFANT/TODDLER CARE & EDUCATION, CERTIFICATE

Philosophical & Historical Foundations of the EC Profession - CDF 203

An orientation to the profession: Exploration of the qualities, expectations, & responsibilities of an EC professional. Relationships among early learning standards, history of the profession, interdisciplinary fields, professional organizations, & philosophical approaches. Background check College approved procedure must be ordered and paid for by the first day of class.

Child Development: Conception-Eight Years - CDF 235

Developmental characteristics and theory pertinent to children conception to age eight. Special emphasis on early childhood theoretical frameworks.

Interaction and Guidance - CDF 236

Overview of guidance strategies in fostering childrens social competency within group or individually. Adults role in various interactions (e.g. parent-child, teacher-child) and resources for working with families/parents (e.g. parent education workshop) will be explored.

Observation and Assessment in ECE - CDF 310

Authentic assessment approaches through observation of children in natural environments. Intentional planning and implementation of Developmentally Appropriate Practice in EC settings. Special emphasis on linking assessment to the EC curriculum.

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Program Plan for Infant & Toddler - CDF 405

Planning, implementation, and evaluation of developmentally and culturally appropriate environments for infants and toddlers. Emphasis is placed on the caregiver-infant relationship, intentional teaching and curriculum/program assessment, laboratory and field experiences, and environmental adaptations for special needs. Includes.

Prenatal and Infant Development - CDF 501

Growth and development from conception to three years. In-depth study of theories and issues related to development during the first three years and before birth. Impact of family, education, and community will be explored.

OR

Infant- Toddler Development & Group Care - CDF 541

Growth and development from conception to three years. Emphasis on family intervention, appropriate policies and practices for group care, assessment, disabilities, multicultural and gender issues, and caregiver professional growth.

TOTAL HOURS...21

FAMILY SERVICES

Interaction and Guidance - CDF 236

Overview of guidance strategies in fostering children's social competency within group or individually. Adults' role in various interactions (e.g. parent-child, teacher-child) and resources for working with families/parents (e.g. parent education workshop) will be explored.

Family Involvement with Young Children - CDF 327

Study of effective relationships with families. Methods and materials useful in fostering family life education, including adult learning principles. Experiences include implementing family service plans, planning discussion groups, conducting home visits, and parent-teacher conferences. Includes 15 service learning hours.

Diversity Awareness for Professional Practice - CDF 424

Professionals working with individuals and families today must develop cultural competency. With a focus on sensitivity and respect, this course provides an overview of diversity in society, including race, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, religion, and other forms of diversity.

Family Stress and Resilience - CDF 437

Study of stressors which may affect the quality of family life and resiliency factors which families and individuals employ to cope effectively with these stressors. Current research and models of family stress and resilience are studied.

Introduction to Family Life Programs - CDF 243

Examination of programs which focus on forming partnerships with families through the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to support family and individual well-being. Career development and opportunities explored.

Child and Adolescent Development - CDF 342

Study of U.S. youth, utilizing systems theory and a life-course perspective approach. Effects of economic, social, and technological change on policies and programs affecting youth of diverse backgrounds.

Family as Consumers - FRM 352

Family resource management across the life course. Resource allocation and decision-making to attain family goals and financial wellbeing; time, money, housing, work-family balance. Role of family economics in marital/family satisfaction and multiple family forms.

TOTAL HOURS...21

What can I do with this degree?

CAREER OUTLOOK

Growing Need for Child and Family Studies Graduates

Early childhood development and early childhood education are challenging and rewarding fields. The Bachelors of Science in Child and Family Studies with a concentration in child development prepares graduates to teach or administer in private early childhood programs. With an increase in both dual income families and single parent households, there will be a greater need for care of children under the age of six. The demand for professionals with these backgrounds has grown steadily in recent years, and is expected to continue to increase through 2031, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*.

As the profession grows, qualifications for employees are also increasing. Currently employed professionals with early childhood credential or associate degrees are required to complete a bachelor's degree – especially those in Head Start programs. A bachelor's degree is also required by state licensing and regulation entities for those looking to move into administrative roles within early childhood education. Salary increases may also be possible for those with additional education.

Child and Family Studies Careers:

- Public and Private Head Start/Preschool Teacher
- Early Childhood Educator (Birth-8)
- Curriculum Specialist
- Afterschool Teacher
- Assessment Specialist
- Home Visitor
- Victim's Advocate
- Childcare Specialist
- Court Designated Specialist
- Profit/ Non-Profit Agencies and Departments for Children & Families

SALARY ESTIMATES

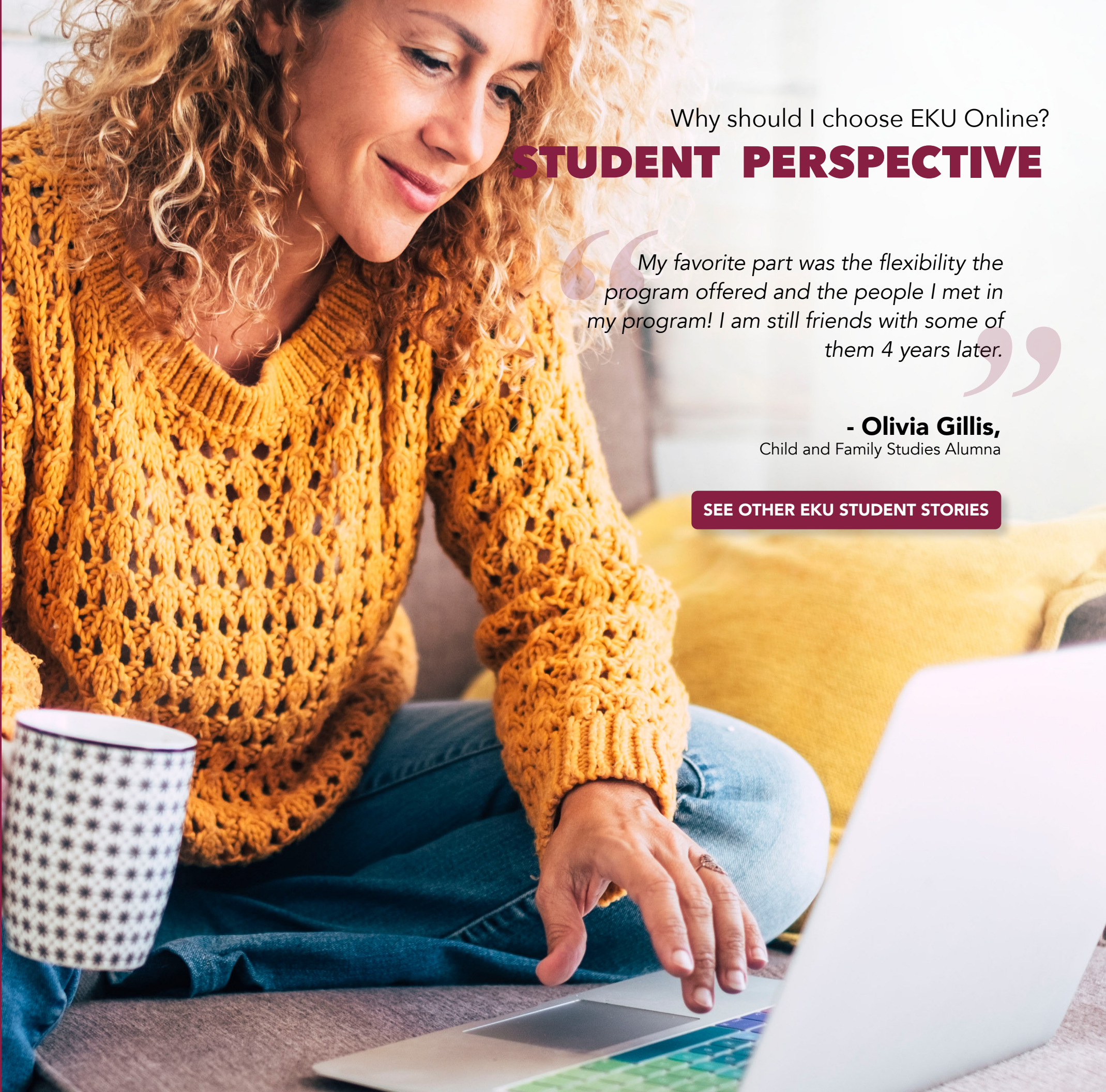
Why should I choose ECU Online?

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

“My favorite part was the flexibility the program offered and the people I met in my program! I am still friends with some of them 4 years later.”

- Olivia Gillis,
Child and Family Studies Alumna

SEE OTHER ECU STUDENT STORIES



Can I afford to go back to school?

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

Paying for school doesn't have to be overwhelming. Almost everyone, regardless of income, can qualify for some form of financial aid. We're here to help you learn about available options and what may be right for your unique situation.

- Grants
- Federal Loans
- Private Loans
- Military Benefits
- Departmental Scholarships
- Outside Scholarships
- Foundation Scholarships
- Employer Tuition Reimbursement

MORE FINANCIAL AID INFO

Questions about financial aid?

Big E Central

BigECentral@eku.edu

(859) 622-2361

EKU Online offers a range of scholarships designed to address the financial needs of our students, lower the overall cost of attendance and reward a student's scholastic achievements.

EKU UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Start Strong Scholarship Fund (undergraduate programs only)

The Start Strong Scholarship provides up to \$2,000 per year of need-based scholarship funds for newly admitted undergraduate students. Candidates must have a completed FAFSA application, but are not required to be eligible for FAFSA awarded funding.

Stay Strong Scholarship Fund (undergraduate programs only)

The Stay Strong Scholarship provides up to \$1,000 per year of need-based scholarship funds for qualified undergraduate students who have completed two semesters with EKU Online and have earned a 3.5 GPA or higher their previous semester. Candidates must have a completed FAFSA application, but are not required to be eligible for FAFSA awarded funding.

Omega Nu Lambda Honor Society Scholarship Fund

In recognition of your accomplishments as an online student, Omega Nu Lambda Honor Society provides members with an opportunity to apply for a scholarship in both fall and spring. Fall scholarships are announced in November and spring are announced in April.

EKU Foundation Scholarship

The Eastern Kentucky University Foundation, through the generosity of its donors, offers a variety of scholarship opportunities to deserving students. EKU Foundation scholarships are awarded through the University Scholarship Office and at college and department levels. New and renewable awards of [EKU Foundation scholarships](#) are subject to available funds each year.

MORE SCHOLARSHIP INFO

When will I start classes?

APPLICATION DEADLINES

TERM	APPLY BY	BEGIN CLASSES
Fall A	July 5	August
Fall B	August 31	October
Spring A	November 30	January
Spring B	January 31	March
Summer A	April 5	May
Summer B	May 31	June

What do I need to apply?

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

First-Time Freshman

- Standard Admission:
high school cumulative GPA (unweighted): 2.50 or higher
- Success First Admission:
high school cumulative GPA (unweighted): 2.00-2.49
- Minimum high school GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

While test scores are not required for admissions purposes, students are encouraged to submit test scores for proper course placement in English and mathematics courses.

Transfer Students

- Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
- In good academic and financial standing at previous institution
- Students who have earned 23 hours or fewer of college credits after high school graduation must also provide a final high school transcript and meet the requirements for incoming freshmen

ADMISSION INFORMATION

How do I apply?

APPLICATION PROCESS

First-time Freshman:

Step 1: Complete the free online application at:

https://application.eku.edu/portal/apply_eku

START MY APPLICATION

Step 2: Submit your high school transcripts to the Office of Admissions.

Step 3: Submit ACT or SAT scores (not required, but encouraged for determining appropriate course placement).

Transfer Students:

Step 1: Complete the free online application at:

https://application.eku.edu/portal/apply_eku

START MY APPLICATION

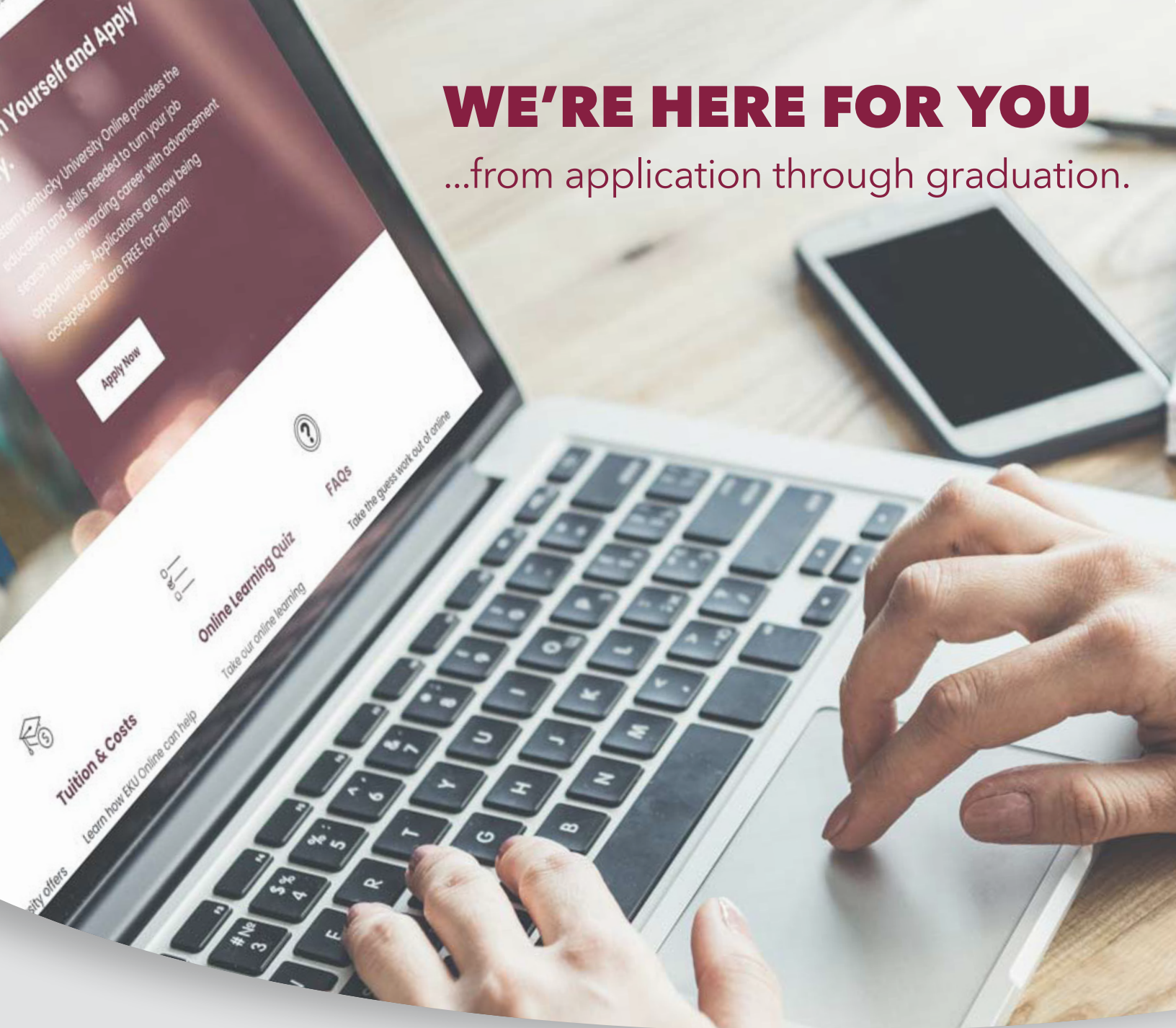
Step 2: Send us your high school transcript (if you have 23 or fewer credit hours).

Step 3: Send us your official transcripts from each accredited university you attended, including dual credit from high school.

What are you waiting for?

GET STARTED TODAY!





WE'RE HERE FOR YOU
...from application through graduation.



Bailey Bird
Enrollment Advisor

 859-622-8764

 Bailey.Bird@eku.edu

EKU
ONLINE

SCHEDULE A CALL

Eastern Kentucky University is an Equal Opportunity employer and educational institution and does not discriminate on the basis of age (40 and over), race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, ethnicity, disability, national origin, veteran status, and/or genetic information in the admission to, or participation in, any educational program or activity (e.g., athletics, academics and housing) which it conducts, or in any employment policy or practice. Any complaint arising by reason of alleged discrimination should be directed to the Office of Institutional Equity, Eastern Kentucky University, Jones Bldg. Room 416, Richmond, Kentucky 40475 (859) 622-8020, or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC. 20202 1-800-421-3481(V), 1-800- 877-8339 (TTY).