

Great Lakes Completion Grant
Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) Intervention Program
Project Summary

Total: \$155,824

Project Period: 01/02/17 to 7/31/2019

PI: Stacey Raymond

Project Team: Kirk Dickerson, Lorrie Boerger, Paul Rusinko



The Coordinator in the Human Services Department will work with faculty and advisors to identify candidates for this program. Grades, academic progress, financial aid challenges, and student performance flags in the Early Alert System will be helpful in identifying student needs among the program's enrollees. Intensive advising and financial support also will be available students in the target population based on faculty and advisor recommendations. Students in the target population and those across the Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) program will benefit from expanded tutoring and an improved policy governing on-the-job work experience requirements. These students will benefit from an additional 10 tutoring hours per week in Autumn and Spring and five hours per week in the summer.

Capacity Building Period (Spring/Summer 2017):

Activity 1: Completion Advising – A dedicated program advisor will work with Early Childhood Development and Education students to develop individualized completion plans, offer financial aid guidance, and help students develop a course scheduling strategy. This will provide more intensive advising focused on assisting the specific needs of the targeted students in the ECDE program. Activity Lead: Lorrie Boerger, Supervisor of Advising in Health and Human Services. Timeline: During the capacity-building period, the advising position will be posted and hired. The implementation of completion advising will occur by the end of Spring 2017.

Activity 2: Academic Tutoring – Additional tutoring will be offered for students in the ECDE program. Learning support specialists will provide extended hours of tutoring. An additional 10 hours per week will be offered in Autumn and Spring. Five additional weekly tutoring hours will be offered during the Summer. Activity Lead: Stacey Raymond, Coordinator, Human Services. Timeline: The tutoring initiative will be developed and implemented during the capacity-building period with expanded tutoring planned in Summer 2017.

Activity 3: Experiential Learning Improvements – The project will create a new policy regarding practicum completion to be more flexible for students. The program will pilot practicum experiences at students' current early childhood employers and develop processes and procedures to review prior learning of students entering the program to expedite completion. Activity Lead: Kirk Dickerson, Chair, Human Services. Timeline: The project team working closely with the ECDE Chair will develop a plan for practicum enhancement during the capacity-building with a goal to implement it in Autumn 2017.

Activity 4: Financial Support – The offer of \$500 in individual completion stipends at graduation time will motivate qualifying students with a guarantee of reimbursement toward tuition, certification exams, books, transportation, childcare, and other items. Stipends will be paid at the completion of the program. Activity Lead: Stacey Raymond, Coordinator, Human Services. Timeline: An internal planning team including financial aid, student accounting, student advocacy, and the project team, will develop the plan for completion grant stipends during the capacity-building period.

Year 1 (Autumn 2017, Spring 2018):

Autumn 2017 will mark the full implementation of completion advising and tutoring for students in this program. As lead of the project, the coordinator in Human Services will recruit and select candidates from the target population and connect the students to supporting resources. Additionally, the new Prior Learning Assessment and Practicum Policy governing the program's experiential learning requirements will be reviewed and implemented by August 2017. The first students will receive completion grants from the project starting in Year 1.

Year 2 (Autumn 2018):

All activities will be operational during the first year and continued into Year 2. Prior to Autumn 2018, an assessment and review of the first year will evaluate the results of the intervention activities to inform any adjustments that are needed. Data tracking and reporting will continue and best practices will be shared throughout the college and disseminated to other institutions.