REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED CHILD DEVELOPMENT
[BSc(ACD)]

These regulations apply to students admitted to the Bachelor of Science in Applied Child Development [BSc(ACD)] curriculum in the academic year 2025-26 and thereafter.

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula)

Ed401 Admission to the degree

To be eligible for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Applied Child Development, a candidate shall

(a) comply with the General Regulations;
(b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula;
(c) hold an Associate Degree or a Higher Diploma in Early Childhood Education; and
(d) satisfy all the requirements of the curriculum in accordance with these regulations and the syllabuses.

Ed402 Period of study

The curriculum for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Applied Child Development shall normally require four semesters of full-time study and a summer semester, extending over not fewer than two academic years, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of three academic years, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

Ed403 Selection of courses

(a) Candidates shall select their courses in accordance with these regulations and the guidelines specified in the syllabuses before the beginning of each semester. Changes to the selection of courses may be made only during the add/drop period of the semester in which the course begins, and such changes shall not be recorded on the transcript of the candidate. Requests for changes after the designated add/drop period of the semester shall not normally be considered.
(b) Withdrawal from courses beyond the designated add/drop period will not be permitted, except for medical reasons approved by the Board of the Faculty.

Ed404 Curriculum requirements

(a) To complete the curriculum, candidates shall follow instruction in the syllabuses prescribed and
  (i) satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula[1]; and
  (ii) complete successfully not fewer than 120 credits, in the manner specified in these regulations and syllabuses, comprising:
    - 84 credits in the Major in Applied Child Development (including the final year project (6-credit) as a Capstone Requirement),

[1] Under Ed405(b), candidates will be granted advanced standing of 120 credits, including 24 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum, a non-credit bearing Academic Communication in English course and 6 credits in a Chinese language enhancement course to fulfill part of the UG5 requirements for graduation.

- 6 credits in an English in the Discipline course,
- 12 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum, including not more than one course from the same Area of Inquiry,
- 6 credits in artificial intelligence literacy,
- 12 credits in elective courses, and
- a non-credit bearing course in national education and national security education, and any other non-credit bearing courses as may be required from time to time.

(b) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester) unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty, or except in the last semester of study when the number of outstanding credits required to complete the curriculum requirements may be fewer than 24 credits.

(c) Candidates may, of their own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year. With the special permission of the Board of the Faculty, candidates may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 144 credits for the normative period of study specified in the curriculum regulations, save as provided for under Ed404(d).

(d) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty may give permission for candidates to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 216 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in the curriculum regulations.

Ed405 Advanced standing and credit transfer

(a) Advanced standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the University in accordance with UG2 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. Credits granted for advanced standing shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.

(b) In recognition of candidates' fulfillment of requirement stipulated in Ed401(c), they will be granted advanced standing of 120 credits, including 24 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum, a non-credit bearing Academic Communication in English course and 6 credits in a Chinese language enhancement course.

(c) Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions at any time during their candidature. The number of transferred credits will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The number of credits to be transferred shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the degree curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

Ed406 Assessment and grades

(a) Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits. Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG8 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

(b) Courses in which candidates are given an F grade shall be recorded on the transcript of the candidate, together with the new grade if the candidate is re-examined as a second attempt or retakes the failed course. All failed grades shall be included in calculating the GPA and shall be taken into account for the purposes of determining eligibility for award of the BSc(ACD) degree, honours classification and whether a candidate shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies.

(c) Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a D grade or above for the purpose of upgrading.
(d) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

Ed407 Absence from examination

Candidates who are unable, because of illness or other acceptable reason, to be present at the written examinations of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the First Semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made within seven calendar days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in these regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

Ed408 Retaking/Re-examination of failed course(s)

(a) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in course(s), but have
- completed successfully 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where candidates are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; and
- achieved an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester),

shall be required, as specified by the relevant Board of Examiners:
(i) to undergo re-assessment(s)/re-examination(s) in the failed course(s) to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
(ii) to re-submit failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
(iii) to repeat the failed course(s) by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
(iv) for elective course(s), to take another course *in lieu* and to satisfy the assessment requirements.

(b) Candidates shall not be permitted to retake a failed course or present themselves for re-examination as a second attempt if they have otherwise satisfied all the requirements stipulated in these regulations for the award of the BSc(ACD) degree.

Ed409 Failure in re-examination

(a) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at re-assessment(s)/re-examination(s), granted under Regulation Ed408, of course(s) in the Applied Child Development Major shall:
(i) if these courses total *not more* than 12 credits, normally be permitted to progress to the following year of study and to present themselves for re-examination, in any prescribed form of examination; or
(ii) if these courses total *more* than 12 credits, be recommended for discontinuation of their studies as stipulated under Regulation Ed410(d).

(b) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at a supplementary examination, granted under Regulation Ed407, shall be permitted to present themselves for re-assessment in accordance with Regulation Ed408, as directed by the Board of Examiners.

Ed410 Discontinuation

Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have

(a) failed to complete successfully 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where candidates are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
(b) failed to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
(c) failed in the Capstone Requirement; or
(d) failed to satisfy the examiners at re-assessment(s)/re-examination(s) of course(s) in the Applied Child Development Major, granted under Regulation Ed408, of more than 12 credits; or
(e) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in Regulation Ed402.

Ed411 Award of degree and honours classifications

(a) To be eligible for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Applied Child Development, candidates shall have successfully completed the curriculum as stipulated under Regulation Ed404.
(b) Honours classifications for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Applied Child Development shall be awarded in five divisions: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours Division One, Second Class Honours Division Two, Third Class Honours, and Pass. The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in accordance with the following Graduation GPA scores (GGPA) stipulated in UG9(a) of Regulations for First Degree Curricula, with all courses taken (including failed courses, but not including courses approved by the Senate graded as 'Pass', 'Fail' or 'Distinction') carrying weightings which are proportionate to their credit values:

Class of honours	*GGPA range*
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours	(2.40 – 3.59)
Division One	3.00 – 3.59
Division Two	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

(c) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Graduation GPA and the Board of Examiners for the degree may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Graduation GPA falls below the range stipulated above of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.
(d) A list of candidates who have successfully completed the degree requirements shall be posted on Faculty notice boards.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED CHILD DEVELOPMENT
[BSc(ACD)]

These syllabuses apply to students admitted to the Bachelor of Science in Applied Child Development [BSc(ACD)] curriculum in the academic year 2025-26 and thereafter.

Candidates are required to complete courses totaling not fewer than 120 credits for the Bachelor of Science in Applied Child Development degree. These courses must comprise:

- 84 credits of courses in the Major in Applied Child Development (including a 6-credit Capstone Requirement);
- 6 credits in an English in the Discipline course;
- 12 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum in different Areas of Inquiry;
- 6 credits in artificial intelligence literacy;
- 12 credits in elective courses; and
- a non-credit bearing course in national education and national security education, and any other non-credit bearing courses as may be required from time to time.

FIRST YEAR OF THE CURRICULUM

Candidates shall normally take the following courses:

- 42 credits of courses in the Major in Applied Child Development;
- 12 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum, including not more than one course from the same Area of Inquiry;
- a 6-credit English in the Discipline course; and
- a 3-credit artificial intelligence literacy course.

SECOND YEAR OF THE CURRICULUM

Candidates shall normally take the following courses:

- 42 credits of courses in the Major in Applied Child Development;
- a 3-credit artificial intelligence literacy course; and
- 12 credits in elective courses.

MAJOR IN APPLIED CHILD DEVELOPMENT (84 credits)

Core Courses

Candidates are required to complete 72 credits of Core Courses as follows:

BSCD3001 Perspectives on Early Childhood Development and Learning (6 credits)

This course analyses the historical and philosophical foundations of early childhood education. It examines major theories and trends in early childhood education. Cross-cultural perspectives on early childhood development and education are discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD3002 Physical Development (6 credits)

This course covers the nature of physical growth and motor development in young children, including perceptual development and gross and fine motor development.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD3003 Social and Emotional Development (6 credits)

This course considers the social and emotional development of young children. Topics covered include attachment, emotions, moral development, empathy and friendship, gender-role development and self and social cognition.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD3004 Cognitive and Language Development (6 credits)

This course examines the theories, methods and research concerning cognitive and language development. Associations among cognition, language development and literacy are explored.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD3005 Introduction to Research Methods (6 credits)

This course introduces qualitative and quantitative methods in educational research. It covers the methods of collecting, analysing, reporting and interpreting research data. The application of ethical procedures in educational research is discussed. This course prepares students to design and conduct their independent research project.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD3006 Observation and Assessment of Children and Early Childhood Programs (6 credits)

This course examines observational methods and assessment techniques in studying children's development and learning. It introduces the principles of observing, recording, reporting, interpreting and documenting children's behavior and covers the knowledge and skills to plan and evaluate early childhood curricula and programs

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD3007 Field Experience (6 credits)

Field experience provides students with the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge to practical settings with supervision from a site supervisor.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD4001 Developmental Neuroscience (6 credits)

This course provides an overview of the development of the brain. It covers the structures and functions of the brain and discusses the neural mechanisms involved in the development of perception, attention, memory and executive function. The intersection between genetics and the environment is considered.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD4002 Development and Education of Young Children with Special Needs (6 credits)

This course introduces the characteristics and needs of children with special needs. It considers the identification and assessment of special educational needs, and explores approaches to teaching and learning, including the accommodation and adaption of curriculum materials and instruction in special education. Models of early intervention are examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD4003 Young Children, Family and the Changing World (6 credits)

This course explores the changing family structures in modern society and their influence on the developing child. It addresses family life issues, such as separation, divorce and remarriage. Theories and research relating to parenting and parent involvement are considered.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD4004 Child Development and Public Policy (6 credits)

This course examines child and family policies in the local and global context. It discusses the impact of social policies on the opportunities and outcomes for children and families. Policies addressing child health, abuse and neglect, adoption, foster care, family support and child protection are considered.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD4999 Independent Project (6 credits)

Independent study of a self-selected topic under the supervision of a faculty member.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Courses

Candidates are required to complete 12 credits of Applied Child Development Elective Courses for the major requirement. They may also take Applied Child Development Elective Courses as free electives

to enhance and extend their learning in the field. Not all of the courses listed below will be offered every year.

BSCD6001 Children's Play and Learning (6 credits)

This course explores the role of play in children's development and learning. It covers key theories and perspectives of play and discusses the planning and implementation of play-based curricula and environments for young children.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD6002 Bilingualism in Young Children (6 credits)

This course provides an overview of theories and research on child bilingualism. Topics covered include the development of bilingualism, individual and societal bilingualism, language maintenance, models of bilingual education and language planning and policies.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD6003 Children, Arts and Technology (6 credits)

This course explores the role of arts and technology in children's lives and education. It studies the integration of arts (music and movement, visual art, drama) and technology in curricula for young children.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD6004 Contemporary Issues in Child Development (6 credits)

This course considers critical issues in child development from local, regional and international viewpoints. It examines the influences of multiple perspectives on early childhood policies and programs, and discusses current trends and innovations in early childhood education.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD6005 Guidance and Counseling in Early Childhood Education (6 credits)

This course covers the theories and techniques of guidance and counseling for young children. Approaches to counseling and therapy, and ethical and legal issues in counseling children are explored.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD6006 Early Childhood Curriculum and Pedagogy (6 credits)

This course provides an overview of the principles of teaching and learning. It discusses major curriculum models in early childhood programmes and focuses on the planning, implementation and evaluation of curricula for young children.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD6007 Children and the Law (6 credits)

This course examines legal issues related to the rights and obligations of children and parents, including child abuse and neglect, foster care, adoption and child custody.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD6008 Child Health (6 credits)

This course provides an overview of the health, safety and nutritional needs of young children. Emphasis is placed on childhood stress and illnesses, abuse and neglect, food safety and nutrition, and safe and healthy environments. Policies and practices to promote the health and well-being of children are discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD6009 Science in the Early Years (6 credits)

This course will focus on ways in which to engage young children to help them understand the role of the environment, science and technology in daily life. It will consider the design of science learning experiences, pedagogies for effective learning and teaching in science, and appropriate assessment strategies. Inquiry- based methods will be emphasised.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD6010 Designing Appropriate Learning Environments for Young Children (6 credits)

This course highlights the importance of planning, designing and creating learning environments that support all aspects of young children's development and growth. It will also consider laws, regulations and standards related to child health safety. Issues facing designers who have to create spaces to meet children's holistic needs in crowded urban areas and the importance of designing appropriate environments for young children with special needs will also be addressed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

BSCD6011 Supporting Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (6 credits)

This course provides an in-depth study of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Students will explore a wide range of evidence-based treatment and intervention strategies in relation to the learning characteristics of young children with ASD. These strategies mainly include Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication-handicapped Children (TEACCH), Social Thinking, and Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). The course guides students through assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation. It teaches students to develop Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), manage behavioral, social, emotional and academic challenges, and decide and design effective teaching strategies for preschool special education and inclusive education in mainstream settings. This course will primarily focus on practical aspects, and students are expected to apply their learning in their classrooms.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ENGLISH IN THE DISCIPLINE COURSE (6 credits)

CAES9430 Academic English for Early Childhood Education Students (6 credits)

This course will help students develop their research report writing skills and oral presentation skills for disciplinary studies and academic purposes. Students will identify a topic in the discipline of Early Childhood Education and conduct a small-scale research project to explore the issue. During the process, they will collect data by interviewing professionals in their field, analyse the information they obtain, and present your findings orally and in formal report writing.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment by coursework.

COMMON CORE CURRICULUM (12 credits)

Candidates are required to complete 12 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum in different Areas of Inquiry.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LITERACY (6 credits)

Candidates are required to complete 6 credits in artificial intelligence literacy.

ELECTIVE COURSE (12 credits)

Candidates are required to complete 12 credits in elective courses.