

UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION

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PURPOSE: To establish a new degree program leading to an Associate of Arts in Inclusive Early Childhood Education.

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WHEREAS, the University of the Virgin Islands was awarded a grant by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to train a cohort of Early Childhood Education teachers, and

WHEREAS, a cohort of fifty students (divided equally between St. Croix and St. Thomas) has been identified, and

WHEREAS, the graduates of this program will be employed in early childhood centers in the Territory, and

WHEREAS, the faculty have reviewed a proposal prepared by the Division of Education and recommended its approval,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Trustees approve a new degree program leading to an Associate of Arts Degree in Inclusive Early Childhood Education which will be offered to a single cohort of students and then terminated.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned does hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution of the Board of Trustees of the University of the Virgin Islands adopted at its meeting on June 1, 1996 and recorded in the minutes of said meeting.

*Orville Kean*

Secretary of the Board

*June 1, 1996*

Date

## BACKGROUND

In March of 1995, the Division of Education wrote a proposal to the US Department of Health and Human Services to train teachers of Early Childhood Education at the Associate Degree level. The effort was initiated because the University was approached by the Department of Education to assist in meeting the needs for qualified Early Childhood teachers. The Virgin Islands Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, and other private schools and agencies indicated that current day care centers and pre-school programs are operating without qualified teachers. The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services indicated that once the program was implemented, it would be used to certify and license teachers of day care centers and pre-school programs.

The program was designed by a local task force that drew on the recommendations and guidelines of national organizations setting training standards in this field including: The National Association for the Education of Young Children; the Division of Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children; and the Association of Teacher Educators.

The program addresses the mandates of P.L. 99-457, IDEA, and the past decade of research on the rationale for, and effectiveness of, inclusionary educational models for all young children. It provides an opportunity for the University to form a partnership with the existing early childhood educational resources and expertise in the United States Virgin Islands in the implementation of this program. The partnership will take the practical form in the use of a "team teaching" approach linking community-based professionals and university faculty.

The program was approved by the Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Organization approved it on March 7. It is spearheaded by Dr. Yegin Habteyes. A cohort of fifty students, half from St. Croix and half from St. Thomas, has been identified. These students will form the cohort identified for the Associate of Arts degree program in Inclusive Early Childhood Education.

\$99,000 for each of three years has been awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to fund the program for this one time cohort of students.

The requirements for this program are shown on the attached pages.

**LISTING OF GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS  
FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE**

ENGLISH 111	ENGLISH COMPOSITION	3 CREDITS
ENGLISH 112	ENGLISH COMPOSITION	3 CREDITS
SPEECH 115	INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS	3 CREDITS
SPEECH 116	GROUP DYNAMICS & PUB. SPEAKING	3 CREDITS
SPANISH 121	ELEMENTARY SPANISH	4 CREDITS
MATH 141	COLLEGE ALGEBRA	4 CREDITS
PSYCHOLOGY 120	INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY	3 CREDITS
BIOLOGY 141*	INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGY	4 CREDITS
SOCIAL SCIENCES		6 CREDITS

**ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION  
COMPUTER LITERACY REQUIRED**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Students are required to take 1/2 credit hours in  
Physical Education for every semester they are full-time students, up to the required  
2 credit hours).**

**TOTAL**

**33 CREDITS**

\*NATURAL SCIENCE 101 CAN SUBSTITUTE FOR BIOLOGY 141

**Courses in Early Childhood Education  
Associate Degree Program**

<b>Course#</b>	<b>Course Description</b>	<b>Credits</b>
1. Edu.1XX	Understanding Patterns of Child Development -	3
2. Edu. 1XX	Understanding, Developing, and Enhancing Appropriate Environments for Infants and Toddlers (Prenatal through 2 Years)	3
3. Edu.1XX	Supervised Practicum Experience in Infants and Toddler Development (Birth to Two Years)	3
4. Edu.1XX	Understanding Patterns of Child Development Three to Six Years	3
5. Edu.1XX	Understanding, Developing, and Enhancing Appropriate Environments for Young Children Three to Six Years	3
6. Edu.1XX	Supervised Practicum Experience with Young Children - Three to Six Years	3
7. Edu.2XX	Family and Community Relationships	3
8. Edu.2XX	Guiding Children's Early Behavior	3
9. Edu.2XX	Inclusive Early Childhood Curricula	3
10. Edu.2XX	Ethical and Legal Issues in Early Childhood Prenatal through Two Years	3
11. Edu.2XX	Practicum In Designing and Implementing Inclusionary Early Childhood Program	3