

**CAP Course Outline Recommendations**  
**Introduction to Curriculum (Revised August 2021)**

**Course Description:**

Developmentally appropriate curriculum and environments for children birth through age eight. Students will use knowledge of children’s development, theories of learning and development, and examples from various models of developmentally appropriate practice to plan environments and curriculum in all content areas to support children’s development and learning integrated throughout indoor and outdoor settings.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Apply elements of various curriculum models, approaches, theories, and standards for early learning including indicators of quality to plan and individualize curriculum for children ages birth through eight.
2. Plan indoor and outdoor environments based on knowledge and understanding of children’s development and needs.
3. Develop curriculum for all content areas to support children’s learning and developmental needs.

**Objectives:**

1. Explore various early childhood curriculum models, approaches, and professional practices to inform and evaluate curriculum and environments.
2. Explain how the curriculum is integrated across all developmental domains and content areas.
3. Observe and evaluate teaching strategies, curriculum, and environmental designs.
4. Observe children as a basis for planning curriculum and environments.
5. Apply knowledge of academic discipline content, children’s growth, development, and individual characteristics to plan developmentally and linguistically appropriate, engaging, and supportive learning experiences for infants and toddlers through the early primary years.
6. Develop plans for physical environments that are appropriate for children’s individual ages and stages, skills and abilities, needs, and learning goals.
7. Explain how different teaching strategies could be used for a variety of curriculum goals.
8. Describe guidance and interaction approaches to support social relationships and learning.
9. Explain how the principles of the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) are applied in various situations and how specific learning experiences could be adapted to address individual children’s learning and development needs.
10. Describe various strategies for engaging and partnering with families to support children's development and learning

**Course Content and Topics:**

1. **Theoretical Frameworks for Planning Curriculum and Environments**
2. **Models of Developmentally Appropriate Play-Based Approaches Such As**
  - a. Emergent Curriculum

## **CAP Introduction to Curriculum (cont'd)**

- b. High-Scope
- c. Waldorf
- d. Reggio Emilia
- e. Montessori

### **3. Planning Early Childhood Curriculum**

- a. Effective practices for planning, implementing, and evaluating developmentally, linguistically, and culturally appropriate curriculum, and learning experiences for:
  - i. Infants and toddlers
  - ii. Preschoolers
  - iii. School-age children
- b. The ongoing curriculum cycle
  - i. Observe
  - ii. Plan
  - iii. Implement
  - iv. Assess
  - v. Document
  - vi. Reflect
- c. Level of teacher involvement-teaching continuum
- d. Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- e. Teacher-child interactions
- f. Guidance and discipline
- g. Relationship-based practices
- h. Effective use of questions
- i. Planning opportunities for children to support each other in learning
- j. Family engagement
- k. Ethical and professional practices
- l. Content areas
  - i. Application of teachers' discipline-based knowledge in the content areas
  - ii. State and national content standards
  - iii. Planning developmentally appropriate curriculum for
    - 1. Math
    - 2. Science
    - 3. English language development
    - 4. Language and literacy
    - 5. History and social science
    - 6. Social-emotional development
    - 7. Visual and performing arts
    - 8. Physical development
    - 9. Health
- m. Appropriate use of instructional technology
- n. Adjustments to curriculum and environment to address children's individualized learning needs including:
  - i. Culture and ethnicity

## **CAP Introduction to Curriculum (cont'd)**

- ii. Socioeconomic status
- iii. Home language
- iv. Ability
- v. Gender
- vi. Learning style
- o. **Planning Learning Environments**
  - i. Designs and impact of physical space
  - ii. Learning centers
  - iii. Selection of equipment and materials
  - iv. Impact of routines and schedules
  - v. Integration of content throughout the indoor and outdoor environments
  - vi. Indicators of quality
  - vii. Inclusion of children's culture and language
  - viii. Health, safety, and nutrition
  - ix. Staffing and zoning
  - x. Environments impact on classroom management