

**THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
HIGHER EDUCATION INVENTORY
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS
IN HEALTH AND FAMILY SUPPORT
PROFESSIONS**

August 2013

INTRODUCTION

Spark NH is New Hampshire's governor-appointed Early Childhood Advisory Council (Council). It is a private-public partnership that works to create a comprehensive coordinated system of programs and supports for young children and their families. Workforce development is an essential Council strategy for improving early childhood education services for young children. Specifically the Council's Workforce and Professional Development Committee is working to enhance the state's capacity for the recruitment, retention, advancement, and support of qualified professionals across early childhood programs via education, training, and credentialing. (Kipnis, 2013, p.1)

Recently a New Hampshire Early Childhood Higher Education Inventory was completed to review the state's early childhood education and special education degree programs.

In July 2013, Spark NH requested that UNH professor Michael Kalinowski review selected higher education programs other than early childhood education and special education that require or recommend coursework in early childhood as a component of their training. The objective was to provide a deeper understanding of the range and focus of such programs, and to clarify the amount and level of course work devoted to early childhood.

This report reviews nine majors and concentrations in accredited NH institutions of higher education: Social Work, Family Support, Human Services, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Pathology, Psychology, and Public Health. Programs are analyzed at the Associate, Bachelor, and Masters degree levels.

Key Findings

Institutions

- ❖ There are 25 degree granting, higher education institutions in New Hampshire that offer at least one accredited program that trains early childhood professionals in Health and/or Family Support professions.
- ❖ Twelve (12) of these institutions offer related Associate degree programs.
- ❖ Seventeen (17) of these institutions offer related Bachelor degree programs.
- ❖ Eight (8) of these institutions offer related Masters degree programs.

Programs

- ❖ The disciplines with the greatest number of related programs in New Hampshire are Nursing (22), Psychology (20), and Human Services (11).
- ❖ The largest number of Associate Degree programs that offer courses related to Young Children are Nursing, (9) Human Services (6), and a tie between Psychology and Speech Pathology (2 each).
- ❖ The largest number of Bachelors Degree programs that offer courses related to Young Children are Psychology (16), Nursing (9) and Human Services (5).
- ❖ The largest number of Masters Degree programs that offer courses related to Young Children are a tie between Psychology and Nursing (4 each), followed by a tie between Public Health and Family Support (2 each).

Courses

- ❖ Overall, the largest number of somewhat related courses in Health and Family Support (HFS) programs is a lifespan human development course. The greatest number of courses consists of early childhood program electives, usually selected from a limited list. Then come early childhood theory and early childhood practice courses. The fewest courses fall under either supporting course electives, or a combination of fieldwork, internships, or clinical experiences.
- ❖ At the Associate degree level there are a significant number of lifespan human development courses but few early childhood related courses.

❖ At the Bachelors degree level there are a roughly equal number of lifespan, theory and practice courses, but few fieldwork, internships, or clinical experiences.

It is at the Masters degree level that one finds more fieldwork, internships, or clinical experiences, and a roughly equivalent number of theory and practice courses.

Conclusion

❖ If the question is “What is available to students in higher education that want to take one course related to young children?” then the answer is lots of opportunities are available.

❖ However, if the question is how deep is the preparation of our professionals in Health and Family Support to work directly with young children, then the answer is that more theoretical, practical, and experiential courses should be considered.

Recommendations

❖ Initiate a discussion with HFS program faculty and staff in NH institutions of higher education regarding the importance of training professionals that have a good understanding of child development and best practices with young children.

❖ Create stronger and continuous relationships with HFS colleagues so that they are better able to work closely with early childhood professionals.

❖ Develop a NH marketing campaign to educate HFS professionals and the public regarding early childhood and the unique needs of young children.

❖ Set a precise five-year goal for increasing the amount of early childhood course work that should reasonably be required for HFS graduates at the Associate, Bachelor and Masters levels.

METHOD

Online reviews were conducted to identify accredited, degree-granting, post-secondary institutions with a physical presence in New Hampshire. These institutions were identified by web searches of the following sites:

- a. "Residents > Education > Colleges & Universities"
<http://www.nh.gov/residents/college.html>
- b. "List of colleges and universities"
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_colleges_and_universities_in_New_Hampshire
- c. "nhcuc New Hampshire College & University Council"
<http://www.nhcuc.org/>
- d. "New Hampshire Colleges"
<http://collegeapps.about.com/od/New-Hampshire-Colleges/New-Hampshire-Colleges.htm>
- e. "New Hampshire Colleges, Universities and Trade Schools"
<http://www.matchcollege.com/state-colleges/NH>
- f. <http://stayworkplay.org/stay/undergraduate-and-graduate-programs-new-hampshire/>

Institutional catalogs were reviewed to identify Associate, Bachelor, and/or Masters degree programs in the following disciplines. Programs that were primarily designed to train early childhood teachers and caregivers were excluded.

Social Work
Family Support (+Family Studies, & Marriage & Family Therapy)
Human Services
Nursing
Occupational Therapy
Physical Therapy
Speech Pathology (+ Communication Disorders)
Psychology (+ Child Development)
Public Health

Individual programs were then reviewed to identify courses that focused at least one-third of their content on early childhood, defined as pre-birth through grade three.

Telephone calls, emails, and campus visits were attempted to clarify the amount of early childhood coverage in selected programs.

The resulting data obtained was tabulated, narrative summaries and charts created, and a draft report developed. This final report was then submitted incorporating suggestions regarding content and format.

DEFINITIONS

Young Child

The period from pre-birth through grade three.

Early Childhood Related Course (EC)

This was defined to include any course in which at least one-third of the course content was focused on theory, practice, observations, and/or participation with children from pre-birth through nine years of age. Such a course may include some content related to children older than nine.

Early Childhood Theory (ECT)

This course includes primarily theoretical information about child development, discipline based research, philosophical bases for a discipline, etc.

Lifespan Human Development (LHD)

This includes courses that introduce students to an overview of development from conception to death.

Early Childhood Practice (ECP)

This includes courses in any discipline that prepares students to work with, or on behalf of young children.

Early Childhood Program Elective (ECPE)

This category comprises required courses from a major or concentration that students may select from a list.

Early Childhood Supporting Course Elective (ECSE)

This category comprises those courses from outside a major or concentration that students may select from a list.

Fieldwork/Internship/Clinical (FWI)

Students may be required to participate in a clinical experience related to an ECP course, or they may be required to obtain fieldwork experience in a professional setting, and/or a culminating professional experience.

Free Elective

This includes a course that a student may select completely unrelated to the identified program. Such courses are excluded from this review because there is no requirement or recommendation for a particular course.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Programs primarily intended to train students to teach or care for young children were excluded from this review, even if a minority of students in those programs intended to work with young children outside the classroom.
2. Students must have achieved a Bachelors degree to be included in a Masters level program for this review.
3. Certificate programs that do not include a degree were excluded.
4. Doctoral level programs were also excluded from this review.

LABELS

PROGRAMS

SW	Social Work
FS	Family Support
HS	Human Services
NUR	Nursing
OT	Occupational Therapy
PT	Physical Therapy
SP	Speech Pathology
PSY	Psychology
PH	Public Health

DEGREES

AA	Associate in Arts
AS	Associate in Science
AAS	Associate in Applied Science
BA	Bachelors in Science
BS	Bachelors in Arts
M.Ed	Masters of Education
MPH	Masters of Public Health
MS	Masters of Science
MSW	Masters of Social Work

CATEGORIES

ECT	Early Childhood Theory
LSHD	Lifespan Human Development
ECP	Early Childhood Practice
ECPE	Early Childhood Elective
ECSE	Early Childhood Supporting Course Elective
FWI	Fieldwork or Internship or Clinical

POSITIONS

OTA	Occupational Therapy Assistant
PTA	Physical Therapist Assistant
BHS	Behavioral Science (in PSY)
FST	Family Studies (in FS)
CD	Child Development
SPA	Speech-Language Pathology Assistant
SWC	Social Work & Counseling
EC	Early Childhood

CONCENTRATIONS

c&a	Child & Adolescent
cs	Childhood Studies
fs	Family Studies
mft	Marriage & Family Therapy
ne/nl	Nursing Education or Nursing Leadership
psych	Psychology concentration
ph	Public Health option
eci	Early Childhood Intervention
cafp	Child Advocacy & Family Policy
fas	Family Support
sw	Sociology & Social Work

**New Hampshire
Associate, Bachelor and Masters
Degree Programs
in Health and Family Support**

DEGREES

Associate Degree Programs

There are twelve (12) degree granting, higher education institutions in New Hampshire with accredited Associate degree programs that collectively offer twenty-one (21) options, as identified in Figure 1.

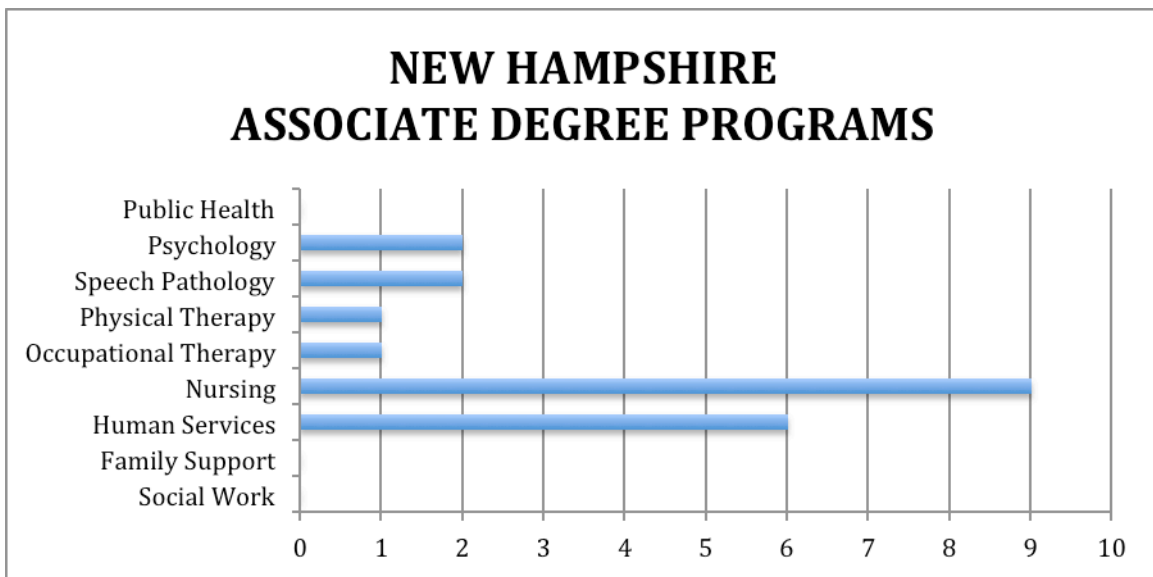


Figure 1

Bachelor Degree Programs

There are seventeen (17) degree-granting, higher education institutions in New Hampshire with accredited Bachelors degree programs, that collectively offer forty-five (45) options, as identified in Figure 2.

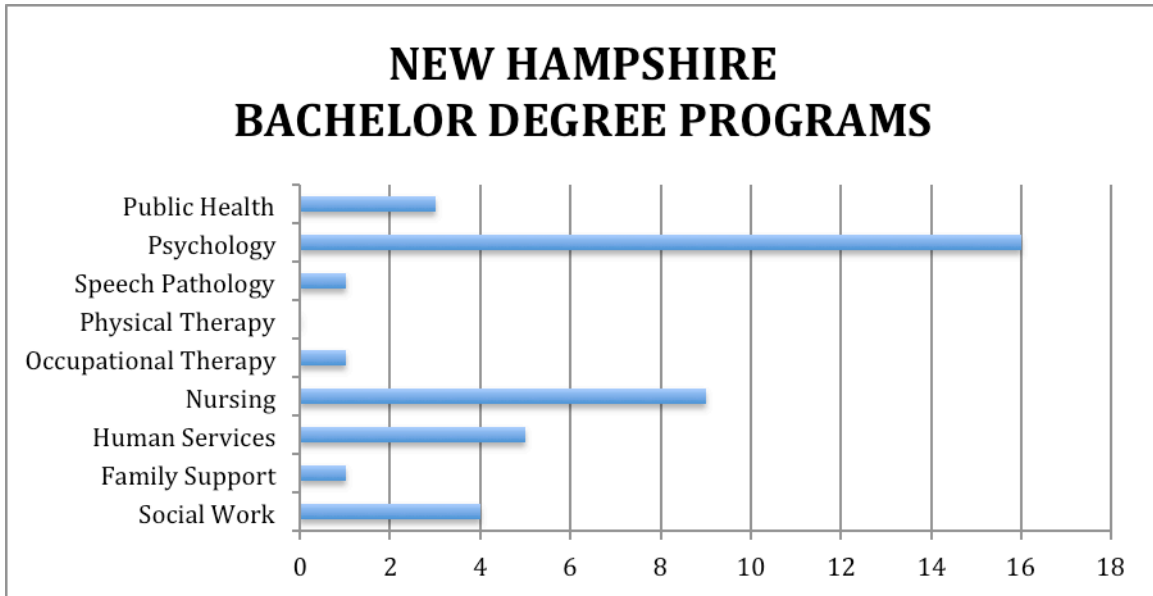


Figure 2

Masters Degree Programs

There are eight (12) degree-granting, higher education institutions in New Hampshire with accredited Masters degree programs. Eight (8) of these collectively offer fifteen (15) options, as identified in Figure 3 below.

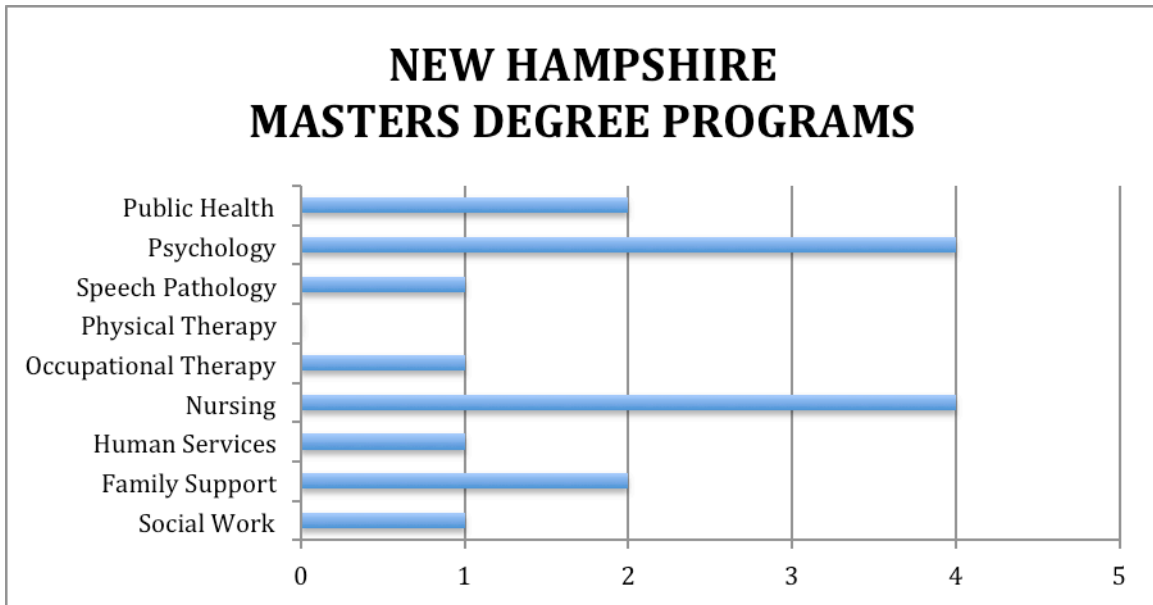


Figure 3

**New Hampshire
Early Childhood Courses
in Health and Family Support Programs**

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMS

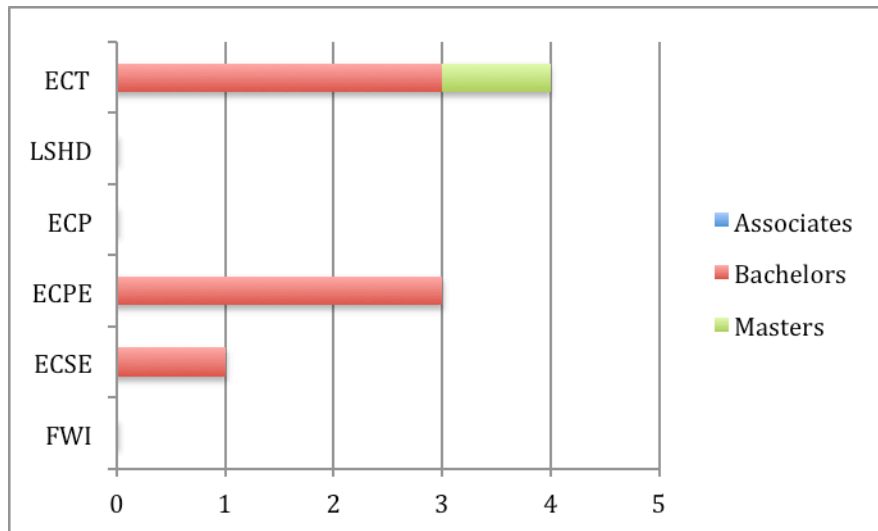
Four institutions of higher education in New Hampshire offer Social Work (SW) degrees at the bachelors level, and one at the masters degree level.

Bachelors Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	3
Lifespan Human Development	0
EC Practices	0
EC Program Elective	3
EC Supporting	1
EC Fieldwork/Internships	0

Masters Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	1
Lifespan Human Development	0
EC Practices	0
EC Program Option	0
EC Program Elective	0
EC Supporting	0
EC Fieldwork/Internship/Lab	0



FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Family Support programs include those identified as Family Support, Child Advocacy and Family Policy, and Marriage & Family Therapy. Two institutions of higher education in New Hampshire offer such programs, with two programs at the bachelors and three at the masters degree level.

Associates Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

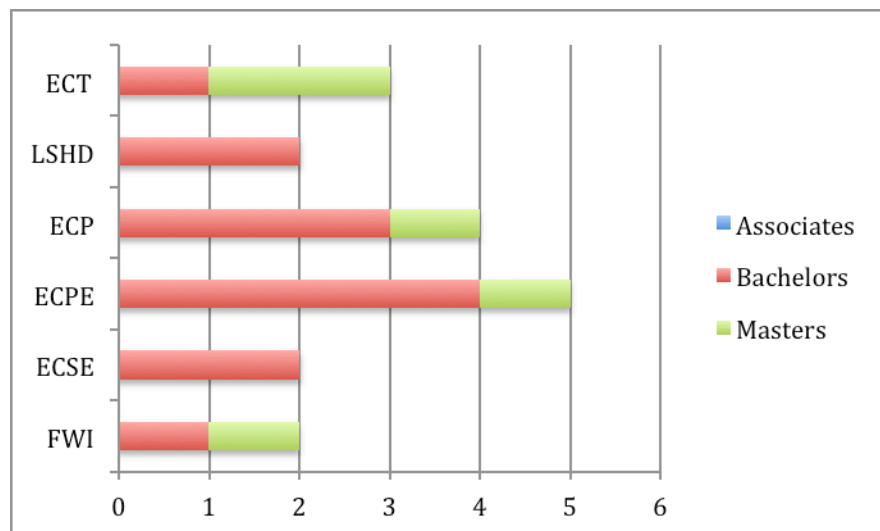
There are no Associates Degree Family Support Programs

Bachelors Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	1
Lifespan Human Development	2
EC Practices	3
EC Program Elective	4
EC Supporting	2
EC Fieldwork/Internships	2

Masters Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	1
Lifespan Human Development	2
EC Practices	2
EC Program Option	6
EC Program Elective	0
EC Supporting	3
EC Fieldwork/Internships	2



HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

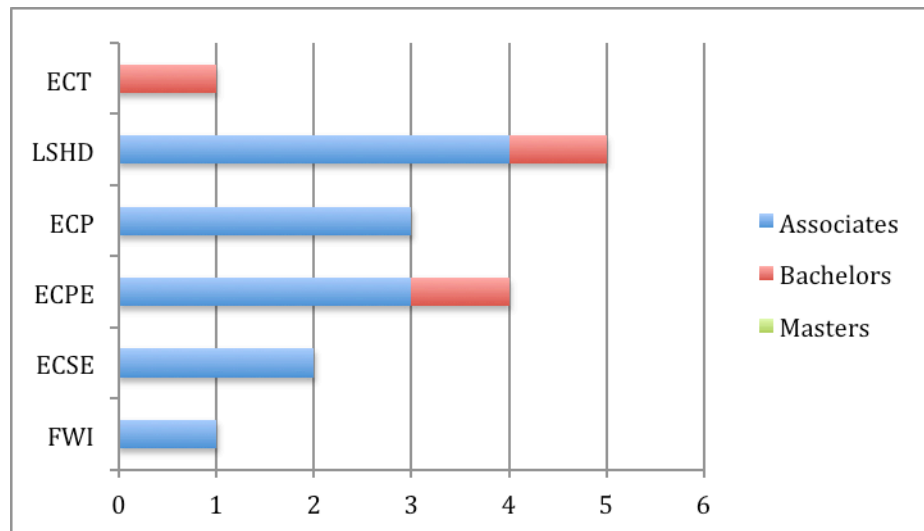
Eight institutions of higher education in New Hampshire offer Human Services (HS) degrees. Six of these programs are at the associates degree level, and two are at the bachelors degree level.

Associates Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	0
Lifespan Human Development	4
EC Practices	3
EC Program Elective	2
EC Supporting	2
EC Fieldwork/Internships	1

Bachelors Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	1
Lifespan Human Development	1
EC Practices	0
EC Program Elective	2
EC Supporting	1
EC Fieldwork/Internships	0



NURSING PROGRAMS

Eighteen (18) institutions of higher education in New Hampshire offer Nursing (NUR) degrees. There are nine (9) programs at the associates degree level, ten (10) programs at the bachelors and four (4) at the masters degree level.

Associates Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

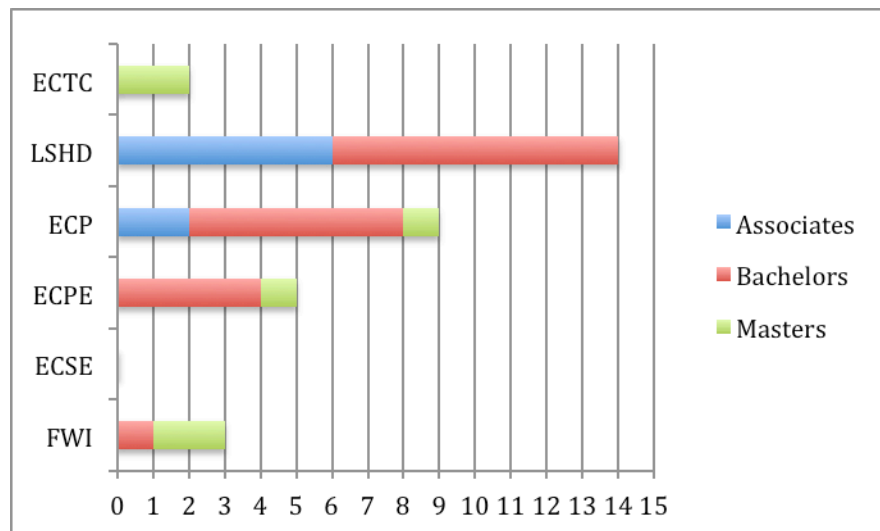
EC Theory	0
Lifespan Human Development	6
EC Practices	2
EC Program Elective	0
EC Supporting	0
EC Fieldwork/Internships	0

Bachelors Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	0
Lifespan Human Development	8
EC Practices	6
EC Program Elective	4
EC Supporting	0
EC Fieldwork/Internships/Clinical	1

Masters Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	2
Lifespan Human Development	0
EC Practices	1
EC Program Elective	1
EC Supporting	0
EC Fieldwork/Internship/Clinical	2



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAMS

Two institutions of higher education in New Hampshire offer Occupational Therapy (OT) degrees, with one OT Assistant program at the associate degree level, one OT program at the bachelors and another at the masters degree level.

Associates Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

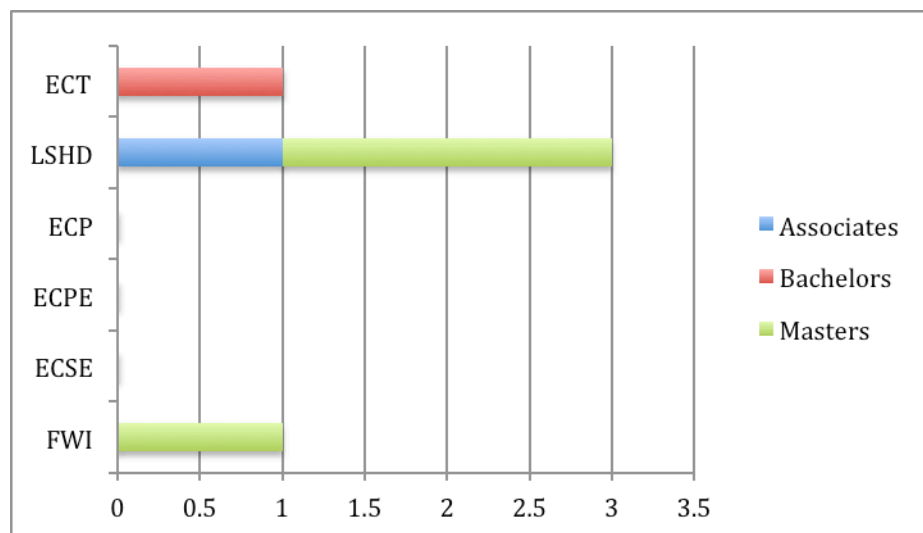
EC Theory	0
Lifespan Human Development	1
EC Practices	0
EC Program Elective	0
EC Supporting	0
EC Fieldwork/Internships	0

Bachelors Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	1
Lifespan Human Development	0
EC Practices	0
EC Program Elective	0
EC Supporting	0
EC Fieldwork/Internships	0

Masters Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	0
Lifespan Human Development	2
EC Practices	0
EC Program Option	0
EC Program Elective	0
EC Supporting	0
EC Fieldwork/Internship/Lab	1

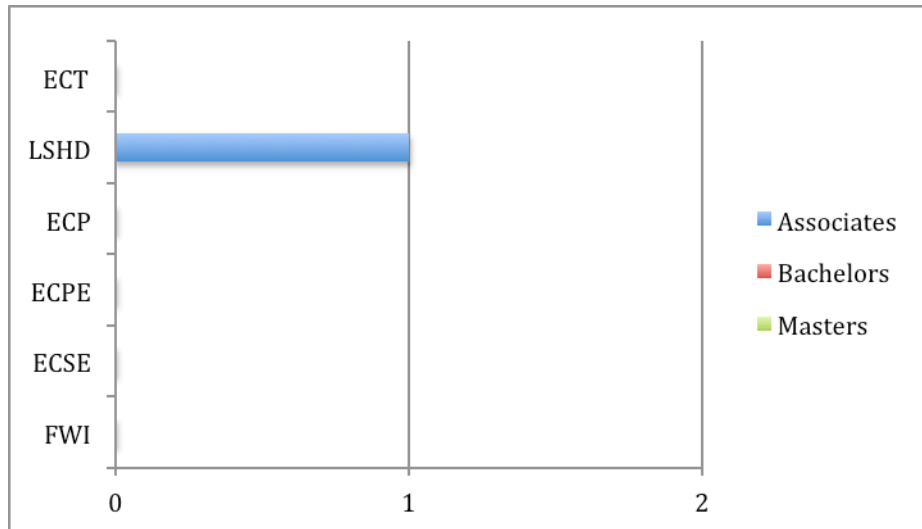


PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAMS

One institution of higher education in New Hampshire offers a Physical Therapy Assistant program at the associate degree level. The only other program is at the doctoral level at a different institution.

Associates Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	1
Lifespan Human Development	1
EC Practices	1
EC Program Option	0
EC Program Elective	0
EC Supporting	0
EC Fieldwork/Internships	0



SPEECH PATHOLOGY PROGRAMS

Speech Pathology programs include those identified as Speech Pathology, and Communication Sciences and Disorders. Two institutions of higher education in New Hampshire offer such programs, with one program each at the associates, bachelors, and masters degree levels.

Associates Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

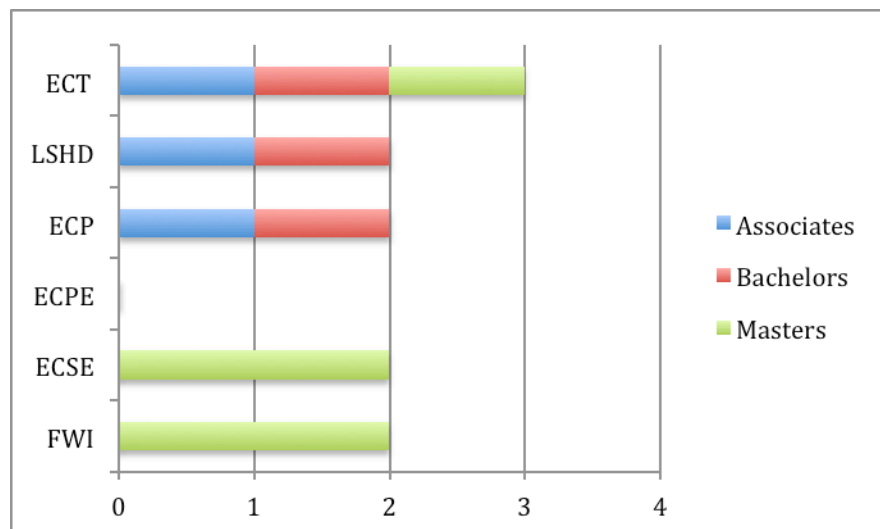
EC Theory	1
Lifespan Human Development	1
EC Practices	1
EC Program Option	0
EC Program Elective	0
EC Supporting	0
EC Fieldwork/Internships	0

Bachelors Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	1
Lifespan Human Development	1
EC Practices	1
EC Program Elective	0
EC Supporting	0
EC Fieldwork/Internships	0

Masters Degree Program Early Childhood Option (ECO) Related Courses

EC Theory	1
Lifespan Human Development	0
EC Practices	0
EC Program Option	0
EC Program Elective	1
EC Supporting	2
EC Fieldwork/Internships	2



PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMS

New Hampshire has twenty (20) institutions of higher education that offer degrees in Psychology (PSY). There are two (2) programs at the associate degree level, sixteen (16) programs at the bachelors and four (4) at the masters degree level. NOTE: The PSY (mft) graduate program is included under Family Support (FS).

Associates Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

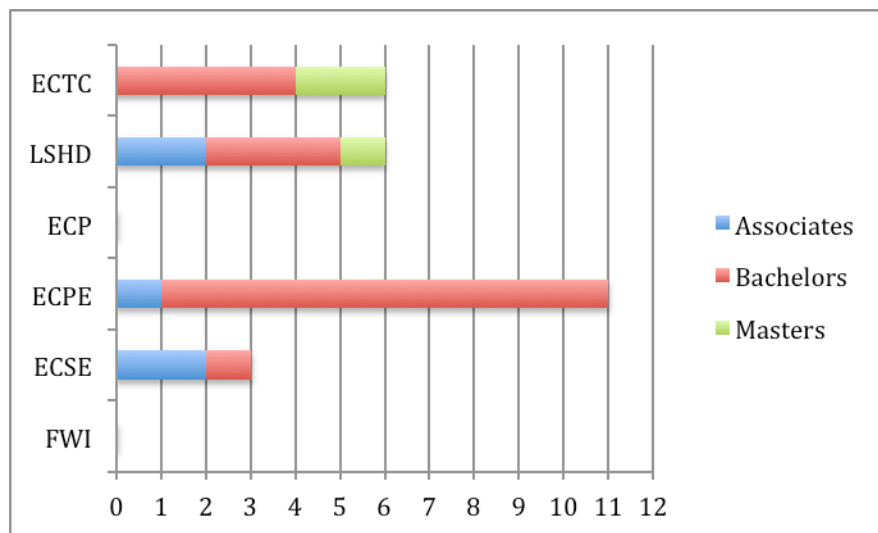
EC Theory	0
Lifespan Human Development	1
EC Practices	0
EC Program Elective	1
EC Supporting Elective	2
EC Fieldwork/Internships	0

Bachelors Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	4
Lifespan Human Development	3
EC Practices	0
EC Program Elective	10
EC Supporting Elective	1
EC Fieldwork/Internships/Clinical	0

Masters Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	2
Lifespan Human Development	1
EC Practices	0
EC Program Elective	0
EC Supporting Elective	0
EC Fieldwork/Internship/Clinical	0



PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

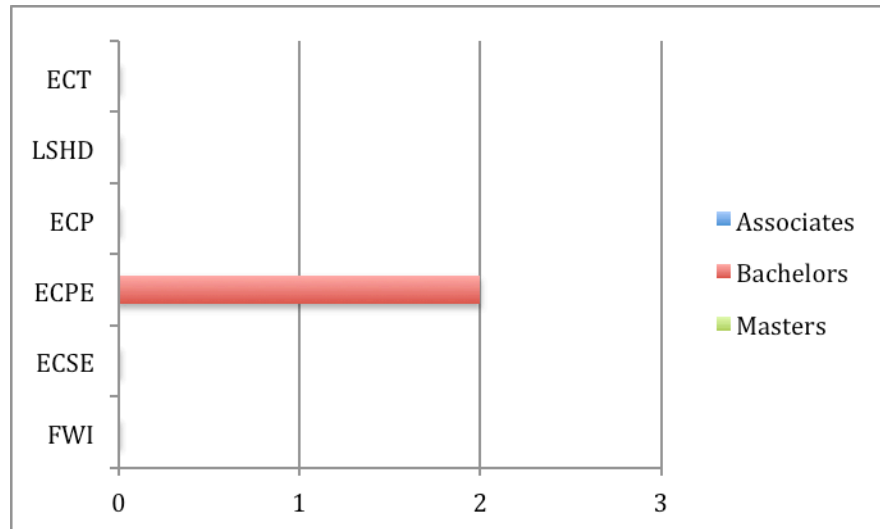
There are many institutions of higher education in New Hampshire that offer health related degrees, including Health Promotion, Health & Welfare, Health Science, and Health Management. However, only three institutions offer Public Health (PH) degrees, two at the bachelors, and two at the masters degree level.

Bachelors Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	0
Lifespan Human Development	0
EC Practices	0
EC Program Elective	2
EC Supporting	0
EC Fieldwork/Internships	0

Masters Degree Program Early Childhood (EC) Related Courses

EC Theory	0
Lifespan Human Development	0
EC Practices	0
EC Program Option	0
EC Program Elective	0
EC Supporting	0
EC Fieldwork/Internship/Lab	0



**New Hampshire
List of
Health and Family Support
Degrees in Higher Education**