Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Early Childhood Special Education offered through Radford University and Lynchburg College. Although our coursework is delivered through a combination of on-site, online, and distance-learning approaches, we stress the importance of hands-on experiences. We use real-time, interactive, multipoint video conference and face-to-face instruction and interactive course management to build a single virtual “classroom” among participants at the universities and distance sites. The consortium will soon have a comprehensive website that will be of value to you in learning more about the program.

Persons interested in graduate coursework in early childhood special education have several options here at Radford University.

- Practicing teachers endorsed in mental retardation typically take three or four additional courses to add endorsement in early childhood special education, according to your VDOE transcript report. These students typically work with VDOE to add this endorsement. Courses can also be applied for recertification points with approval from your school district.
- Graduate students in high incidence disabilities take additional courses to add endorsement in early childhood special education.
- Practicing teachers endorsed in elementary or special education take courses and corresponding practicum in early childhood special education, and receive endorsement through Radford University or Lynchburg College.
- Persons with a bachelor's degree but no licensure take up to 39 hours of coursework in education and early childhood special education and 6-9 hours of practicum and internship to obtain initial licensure in early childhood special education.
- Any of the above persons who have successfully completed 6-9 hours of endorsement coursework in early childhood special education with grades of A's or B's, and who have applied and met the graduate school requirements for degree seeking students, may work towards a masters degree in special education with a concentration in early childhood special education.

All individuals who wish to take one or more courses in early childhood special education must apply to both the Early Childhood Special Education Consortium and the Graduate School. Please review the application requirements at the Graduate School Website.

Application to the Consortium involves submission of the Application Form for Participation (attached). I am your contact person for the Consortium and the Special Education program at Radford University.

Dr. Kathryn Hoover  
School of Teacher Education and Leadership  
Radford University  
Box 6959 Radford VA 24142  
(540) 831-8313  
kahoover@radford.edu

You must also apply to the graduate school here at RU. All the information you need for that application process can be found at http://www.radford.edu/~gradcoll/apply/index.html You have two contact persons at the College of Graduate and Extended Education:

Joseph Lawhorne, Advising Coordinator  
Joseph can help you with your application and what degree seeking status to choose,
and other information you need as a new graduate student and more.
Lucas Hall, Room 203, PO Box 6928, Radford, VA 24142
Office: (540) 831-6296, jdlawhorn@radford.edu

Sharon Gunter, Coordinator of Graduate Admissions
Sharon makes sure that all parts of your application are complete and processes you for admission.
Lucas Hall, Room G005, PO Box 6928, Radford, VA 24142
Office: (540) 831-5327, sgunter@radford.edu

Partial or full-tuition assistance is available for most qualified applicants who have been accepted by the Consortium and the Graduate School, and who have registered for courses at least one month before the start of each semester. First priority for funding will be for teachers with provisional licenses who are enrolled in RU or LC with grades of B or better in all coursework to date (for those currently enrolled). Others will be funded on a first-come, first serve basis. Individuals who receive funding may be expected to meet a service obligation as a special education teacher in Virginia schools. Further information on this will be forthcoming.

Students accepted into the program are required to have basic computer skills and knowledge of all Microsoft Office Suite applications. They will also be required to become proficient with a variety of technology learning tools including e-mail, WEB/CT and MacroMedia Breeze. Students must maintain regular class attendance, engage in class discussions as active participants, communicate with course instructors about individual needs, prepare papers that conform to APA style, acquire graduate-level research, reading and study skills, and become familiar with the research literature in the field of early childhood special education. Prior to beginning coursework, participants attend an orientation session on the use of distance education technology at their respective university or distance site. In order to be considered for this program, an applicant must either teach students preschoolers with disabilities or have access to preschoolers with disabilities in an educational setting. First preference is given to school personnel currently working with preschoolers with disabilities with a provisional license. Other applicants will also be considered.

Good luck with the application process. Please do not hesitate to email me to set up a phone call if you would like to chat more informally about the program. We will let you know when we have received confirmation of your application to the graduate school and have had the opportunity to review your completed ECSE Consortium application.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hoover
RU Coordinator, ECSE Graduate Program
School of Teacher Education and Leadership