

ECCO

EDUCATORS IN CONTEXT
AND COMMUNITY



"We teach students, not subjects. ECCO creates opportunities for teachers to know themselves, their students' lives, the communities and cultures they come from, and the teaching profession as a whole."

>> Dr. Patrick Vrooman (Director)

BGSU

Learning Communities at BGSU

At BGSU, we care for the individual. We feel that the best way to invite and invigorate you to succeed in your personal, professional, and academic life is to develop a sense of community. We nurture your transition by welcoming you to live in one of our Learning Communities which have been recognized for eight consecutive years by U.S. News & World Report in "Programs to Look For." Here, the true definition of community is realized. Focus on an interest area, and allow our foundation of friendship and community to do the rest.

ECCO at BGSU

The Educators in Context & Community (ECCO) learning community, located in McDonald Hall, is for all education majors that want to distinguish themselves from the thousands of graduating teachers who annually enter a highly competitive job market. ECCO is considered to be one of the most progressive and promising teacher preparation programs in the country.

ECCO was originally funded in 2001 by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and was named PCC (Partners in Context & Community). It had one sole purpose: to prepare urban-ready educators. We have expanded that urban-ready focus to include rural and suburban.

We have learned that preparation for students in urban settings may not be adequate preparation for other students in other contexts. So, we have added a variety of experiences and study in a variety of contexts to support members in acclimating to different communities.

ECCO is about three-dimensional teaching and learning: we focus on culturally competent, comparative, and context-based teaching and learning. It's time to "get real"--real experience in real classrooms and communities.

What's the Difference

BGSU's teacher preparation program is one of the top in the country. ECCO takes it up another notch.

In ECCO, you will do everything every other education majors does, but you will be challenged to do more field placement hours and service, take additional context-focused classes, and participate in more professional development and social activities.

But you will also be supported to meet these challenges--with dedicated faculty whose offices are in your residence hall, with constant contact with upperclassmen who have been where you are, and with Supervising Teachers in the schools who want to bring up the next generation of educators. We want you to develop socially and emotionally, not just technically, for real world teaching.

ECCO is comprehensive: we link and overlap where you live with what you're studying, real world experience with research and inquiry, and rigorous career preparation with long, philosophical conversations late into the night.



Field Placements Start Immediately

Unlike other teacher preparation programs, ECCO begins your first semester in college and progresses through graduation and jumpstarts you into your career. Beginning the third week of classes, you will enter a real classroom and work alongside experienced teachers and their students.

As you progress in ECCO, you will gain experience in three contexts--urban, rural, and suburban communities. You will start outside your comfort zone (unlike the community you grew up in). You will spend a semester in each context area, and then choose a context concentration area during your second year to be your focus through graduation.

It is not uncommon for our supervising teachers to put you to work one-on-one or in small groups with students within minutes of walking in the door.

Many ECCO members are teaching lessons by the end of the semester. You will do this every semester you are in ECCO, gaining more and more experience in real classrooms and learning how real teachers deal with the day-to-day work of teaching.

If You're Not Sure, Try It

Certainly, the ECCO experience leads some students to decide teaching is not for them. We would rather you do this first semester than wait until senior year to make that decision. For most, this experience galvanizes their decision to teach and to dedicate themselves to a career in a place where they are truly needed.

We Offer:

- > A comprehensive and developmental program that uses best practices and current research.
- > Small classes and low student-to-teacher ratio. ECCO staff offices are located in McDonald Hall.
- > Member-driven programming and decision-making that integrates individual, educational, community, and professional goals.
- > Local, regional, and national clinical trips to urban settings (e.g., Chicago for Fall Break 2012 and Newark, NJ and New York City for Spring Break 2012).
- > Social and emotional preparation for the teaching profession
- > The opportunity to develop friendships which will sustain you through college and those challenging first couple years as a new teacher
- > One-on-one career counseling and preparation

Seven Commitments of ECCO

- 1 Residence in McDonald Hall (starting in 2013) for First Year members
- 2 Payment of a \$275 participation fee per semester (decreasing after the first year) to cover additional programming costs. This fee has not changed since 2003
- 3 Completion of an annual FBI and BCI&I criminal background check (additional cost)
- 4 Engagement in 50-hour field placement experience each semester, and choose a context concentration area during your second year
- 5 Enrollment in the one-credit Seminar course (RESC 4700C) each semester
- 6 Participation in at least one social, one service, and one professional development activity per semester. And, be active in a ECCO "family."
- 7 Presentation at the annual ECCO Conference





Contact: _____

Take education classes to prepare you for how to teach.
Take content classes to prepare you for what to teach.
Join ECCO to prepare you for who you will be teaching.

We are Urban Educators.
We are Rural Educators.
We are Suburban Educators.
We are ECCO.

Students Say...

"I joined ECCO to challenge myself and to teach outside my comfort zone. I now feel like I can teach in any school."

>> TJ Supinger (4 semesters)

"I love the hands-on experience with a community that helps each member grow professionally as well as academically."

>> Abby Heitkamp (4 semesters)

To enroll in a BGSU learning community, visit
www.bgsu.edu/learningcommunities

To learn more about Educators in Context and
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