Several programs in the School of Education are designed for Mills College undergraduate students: the child development major and minor, the urban education minor; and the accelerated programs in early childhood education, and teaching. Graduate course work and programs, including early childhood education, teacher education, and educational leadership, are described on the School of Education website (https://www.mills.edu/academics/graduate-programs/education/).

Education Major
The Education major uses a sociocultural framework to guide students’ inquiry into the study of education, focusing deeply on issues of justice, anti-oppression, and how to create change. Students will explore educational processes on micro and macro levels, considering for example, psychology, child development, ethnic and women and gender studies, anthropology and sociology. Students will develop an understanding of children’s learning and pedagogical practices in the context of historical, sociopolitical, cultural, and institutional issues. Throughout the program, students will take courses which contribute to an interdisciplinary perspective on education, and they will have opportunities to relate their theoretically-based coursework through hands-on experience in community-based educational settings. Students within this major will explore and address the following questions:

1. How does education function as a system, how do other systems and institutions interact with education, and what are modes for creating change?
2. How do children, families, and teachers experience and shape education—in the home, community, schools, and other institutions?
3. How do issues of oppression (race, class, gender, sexual orientation, language, dis/ability, religion) operate within and through education?
4. How do processes of development, teaching, and learning unfold?
5. How can we use research, theory, and various leadership skills to address educational issues?

Urban Education Minor
Many people believe that there is currently a crisis in urban education at this time in our history in the United States. An understanding of the challenges of urban education draws on several disciplinary frameworks including education, public policy, economics, and sociology and engages various constituencies such as local, state and federal governments and districts, community-based organizations and teachers’ unions. Our major in Education is centered around urban education. The urban education minor allows students to gain foundational knowledge of policies and practices in urban settings including schools. While the minor offers students the opportunity to select courses that match their interests, there are three core courses that bring students together to inquire into common topics in urban education. For students considering a career in education, the minor provides the opportunity either to take courses that allow them to work in schools and immerse themselves in academic courses related to urban education or to take some of the courses required for the accelerated program in teaching. In addition, the minor provides opportunities for students to become engaged in work in neighborhoods and schools that is connected to their coursework. Child Development majors may want to take this minor to add a focus on the urban context to their existing coursework.

Child Development
The School of Education offers a major and a minor in child development that encourages students to take courses in other departments. The study of children has special significance at Mills, which in 1926 opened the first campus nursery school on the West Coast as a laboratory for child study and professional training of teachers. Child development is an interdisciplinary major grounded in the study of human growth and development. Students observe and participate in the Children’s School during their studies, gaining hands-on, mentored experience developing, using, and evaluating early childhood curricula with children from infancy through preschool.

The major in child development aligns with the requirements for the state of California (https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/req-child-dev/), providing eligibility for a student to apply to become a child development master teacher or to receive a site supervisor permit for teaching in preschool and day-care centers.

The study of child development forms a strong basis for graduate school in education, psychology, and social work, and for a variety of careers, including nonprofit work, educational industry, and formal and informal learning environments such as preschools and museums.

Mills offers several accelerated degree programs (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/) in education.

Learning Outcomes
• Learn modes of creating change through learning how education functions as a system and how other institutions interact with it.
• Learn how children, families and teachers shape education; in the home, community, schools and in other settings.
• Learn how issues of oppression (race, class, gender, sexual orientation, language, dis/ability, religion) operate within and through education.
• Learn how processes of development, teaching, and learning unfold.
• Learn to address educational issues through research, theory and their leadership development.

Majors & Minors
Majors
Child Development Major—BA (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/child-development/child-development-ba/)
Education Major—BA (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/education/education-ba/)
Minors
Urban Education Minor (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/education/urban-education-minor/)

Accelerated Degree Programs
BA/MA Child Development & Elementary Education (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bama-child-development-elementary-education/)
BA/MA Early Childhood Special Education/Teaching Credential (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bama-child-developmentearly-childhood-special-education-credential/)
BA/MA Education/Teaching Credential (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bama-teacher-education/)