

Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education

(Child Development Lab)

Description of Program

The Lowry Center for Early Childhood Educations' mission is to provide a model center for early childhood education and human development for the broad University community and its constituency groups. Lowry offers an ideal setting for the professional development of pre-service and in-service educators in the field of Early Childhood Education; as well as an excellent field experience and observation site for Oakland University students in the field of early childhood education.

The curriculum is based on sound child development theory and practice, incorporating a variety of approaches and techniques. The daily routine structure is based on the High/Scope Curriculum model and consists of planning time, work time, and recall time. Project-based learning allows children the opportunity to challenge their minds by exploring various topics and questions. As children are involved in project experiences, they become familiar with, and competent in the process of planning, exploring, and expanding their interests. The program strives to provide an environment, which develops strong self-esteem, provokes curiosity, and increases the desire to learn.

The Lowry Center is utilized for selected graduate Early Childhood Education courses, thus providing immediate and direct opportunities for observation and interaction with young children. Undergraduate classes in the School of Education make frequent visits to the Lowry Center for observations, assessment, and modeling. Several other academic departments utilize Lowry Center to meet their specific education purposes.

Many undergraduate students serve in classroom assistant roles throughout their time at Oakland University.

Through the Child Care Access Means Parent's in School (CCAMPIS) federal grant funding, the Lowry Center also strives to serve and support Oakland University student parents by providing a high quality program for their young children as they work to achieve educational goals.

Since 2005 the Lowry Center has been one of 57 competitive grantees to receive funding for the Michigan School Readiness Program (MSRP) from the Michigan Department of Education. This program has allowed Lowry to offer free preschool, to eight children with two or more risk factors for three years. This program enhances diversity and extends services to the community. Lowry will compete again this summer to receive this grant funding for another three year cycle from the State of Michigan.

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Key Performance Indicators

Projected percentage of enrollment capacity for Winter semester, 2008

	Toddler-AM	Toddler-PM	Toddler-Full
Monday	100%	33%	100%
Tuesday	100%	83%	100%
Wednesday	100%	25%	100%
Thursday	100%	92%	100%
Friday	100%	25%	100%
	Preschool-AM	Preschool-PM	Preschool-Full
Monday	75%	30%	75%
Tuesday	95%	40%	90%
Wednesday	80%	30%	80%
Thursday	90%	40%	85%
Friday	80%	30%	80%
	Pre-K-AM	Pre-K-PM	Pre-K-Full
Monday	77%	33%	77%
Tuesday	36%	39%	91%
Wednesday	77%	33%	86%
Thursday	36%	39%	95%
Friday	77%	33%	82%
Total overall enrollment percentage =		<u>69%</u>	

	Winter 2005 Participants	Winter 2006 Participants	Winter 2007 Participants	Winter 2008 Participants
Community	146	156	135	109
Students	22	38	44	38
Faculty and Staff	19	25	27	27

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Key Performance Indicators (continued)

Age Group	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Toddlers	\$49 Full day \$27 Half day	\$52 Full day \$29 Half day	\$55 Full day \$31 Half day	\$55 Full day \$45.00 Half Day w/lunch & rest \$26.00 Half Day Afternoon \$31 Half day
Preschool	\$41 Full day \$22 Half day	\$44 Full day \$24 Half day	\$46 Full day \$26 Half day	\$46 Full day \$26 Half day
Pre-K	Pre-K \$41 Full day \$22 Half day	Pre-K \$44 Full day \$24 Half day	Pre-K \$46 Full day \$26 Half day	Pre-K \$46 Full day \$26 Half day
Before / After-Care	\$5.00 / ½ hour	\$5.00 / ½ hour Community \$3.00/ ½ hour OU	\$5.00/ ½ hour Community \$3.00/ ½ hour OU	\$5.00 / ½ hour Community \$3.00/ ½ hour OU

1. Registration/Deposit fees for community members will be \$200 per year; \$150 will be deducted from the final payment (\$50.00 non-refundable).
2. Registration fees for OU affiliates will be \$50 per semester; \$25 will be deducted from the final payment per semester (\$25.00 non-refundable per semester).
3. Schedule Change Fees will be introduced for decrease in schedule. These fees will be \$25.00 per change starting with 2008-2009 enrollments.

Budget Assumptions

Revenue –

Operating revenue

- Based on 76% enrollment. These projections reflect an increase of about 7% over FY08 due to the implementation of a marketing plan which involves advertisement in the Metro Parent Periodical and Lowry's attendance at three Spring Preschool Fairs and a Lowry Open House being held in April 08. The changes to Toddler Programming and the closing of the afternoon Pre-Kindergarten classroom also added to the increased prediction in enrollment.
- Toddler classroom models are changing to meet current enrollment trend and to increase available spaces offered to Toddler families. Lowry will offer a Younger Toddler room with a capacity of 12 from 18 months up to 2 ½ years of age and an Older Toddler room with a capacity of 16 from 2 ½ years up 3 ½ years of age. Both rooms will

offer ½ day morning, extended morning with lunch and nap, a two hour afternoon and a full day option.

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Budget Assumptions (continued)

Revenue –

- Tuition fees being kept the same as 07-08 due to lower than predicted enrollments in 07-08 and comparing our current rates to other comparable rates for similar preschools in the Rochester area. Families will be offered a 5% discount on the oldest sibling when enrolling two or more children. This discount is a common practice among preschools.
- MSRP will be offered on an Alternate Full Day Schedule in the Preschool Full Day room to reduce the operating costs for the grant and better serve the need of our MSRP families.
- Preschool & Pre Kindergarten ½ Day afternoons will be combined into one classroom. Current enrollment trends have been low for all classrooms with afternoon programs. Combining the classrooms will reduce the need for student staffing in the afternoons and open up a classroom for possible collaboration within the Department with hopes of introducing new programming to Lowry.

Gifts & Grants

- \$26,400 for MSRP grant (8 preschool T/TH Full Day slots) for award period 10/3/08 to 7/16/09. MSRP is in a Competitive year for the award. If we are not awarded MSRP we would be able to generate additional tuition by offering the spots reserved for MSRP families to families from the Community and OU. The eight families receiving MSRP funding during FY08 were already enrolled at Lowry prior to this grant being offered to help with their tuition expenses. Lowry has also identified eight potential children who are MSRP eligible for FY09 that are planning to enroll in FY09 regardless of the MSRP grant funds.
- \$54,121 for CCAMPIS grant for award period 10/1/08 – 9/30/09; renewed until October 1, 2010
- \$4,000 in projected gifts & investment income from endowments.

Expenditures -

Compensation

- Current salaries with a recommended merit increase.
- Student staff salaries have been reduced from last year because of changes to the afternoon and toddler programs.

Supplies & Services

- Decrease in service costs due to rebudget of the CCAMPIS grant removing the indirect costs from the CCAMPIS budget to place all CCAMPIS grant funds into tuition scholarships.

Repairs & Maintenance

- Cleaning services contract based on current trend with 5% increase to reflect inflation.

Utilities

- Based on current trend.

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Budget Assumptions (continued)

Expenses -

Capital Expenses

- Lowry's maintenance contract with Ricoh for the copier expires on June 30th, 2008 and is not eligible for renewal. The amount estimated is based on quotes from Ricoh and Cannon.

Transfers –

General Fund Budget Support

- Based on the estimated number of practicum students.

Net –

Lowry is projecting a deficit of \$31,669 for FY 09. This deficit will be covered by Lowry's accumulated fund balance. The deficit is being projected due to the current economic recession in Metro Detroit and the reported predictions that the economy will not rebound within the next fiscal year. Families that have withdrawn from Lowry in the past eight months have done so due to loss of job; reduction of salary; and relocation out of the Metro Detroit area. A survey done of area preschools shows a decline in overall preschool enrollment in the Rochester area.