

How to Start a Club & Connect with Local Affiliates

Interested in starting up an early childhood education club on your campus? Already have one and are looking to connect with your local Association for the Education of Young Children affiliates?



Step 1 - Create a recognized student club on your campus

- Start by contacting the Office of Campus Life at your school. The Student Activities leaders in that office can help you through the process of becoming a recognized student organization on your campus. This process varies from school to school. ([Example](#) of AU's club recognition criteria.)
- Many college campuses will have required workshops for you to attend as a new student leader with specific information about how to finance your club, how to write a budget, etc. Attend everything your school offers! Gather every piece of information possible.
- **Enlist interested students!** Many schools require a list of signatures from 5-10 other students on your campus in order to begin the start-up process for a new club.
- **Find a faculty advisor!** She/he will be your link between your college's administration, the academic departments, and your local Affiliate.
 - Discuss finding a good fit for a faculty advisor with your Student Activities advisor.
 - Help students develop organizational, administrative, and communication skills.

INSIDER TIP: If you are having trouble finding a faculty member to commit to advising your student club, consider asking one of your current professors to be the interim advisor for the start-up process and then focus on the search for a more permanent faculty advisor later in the semester when your club is established.

- Encourage peer mentoring among students to foster personal and professional development.
- Provide information on what early childhood education professionals do, career options, both traditional and non traditional, and helping students plan their career path.
- Set up a club E-mail address — for example, AUEarlyChildhoodClub@gmail.com is a very clear

name for American University's Early Childhood Education Club. Some schools will provide a domain name. For example, AUEarlyChildhoodClub@american.edu. It is crucial to set up one non-personal E-mail address for the club so that communication can remain clear throughout changing leadership from year to year. This is also important so that Affiliates, faculty, and interested students always have one specific E-mail address to contact. One dedicated address keeps your club looking professional!

Step 2

Connect with your local/state Association for the Education of Young Children Affiliate

- What is the relationship between student club and NAEYC and what it means to be a student club according to the National Association for the Education of Young Children
- [GOOGLE map](#) — check out where other student clubs near your college are!
- Work with your faculty advisor to [connect](#) with your local and/or state Associations for the Education of Young Children Affiliates.
 - Email is often the best way to do this. Find their information online at [NAEYC's Affiliate Relations website](#).
 - Join our work by completing [a short survey](#).



- Arrange a time to meet with an Affiliate leader, your faculty advisor, and a few of your officers all at the same time to discuss plans for the year.
- There are many opportunities members of your club can get involved with once you are connected to your Affiliate(s). Check out [other resources](#) for more ideas, but some examples include:
 - Sitting on the local/state board of directors of your affiliate AEYC
 - Internships at local/state AEYC Affiliates — learn more about how an Association for the Education for Young Children works and operates, and help it grow!
 - Externships at local/state AEYC affiliates — get hands-on experience in the early childhood education field!
 - Research opportunities through the E-mail listserv — Affiliate leaders are very well connected! By maintaining a consistent E-mail listserv, your Affiliate can send out updates of job placements, post-graduate programs, and research opportunities to your club E-mail address and you can send to your club members on a regular basis.

