

Early Childhood Care and Education

The Early Childhood Care and Education Associate of Applied Science program is a sequence of courses designed to prepare students for careers in child care and related fields. Learning opportunities develop academic, technical, and professional knowledge and skills required for job acquisition, retention, and advancement. The program emphasizes a combination of early childhood care and education theory and practical application necessary for successful employment. Program graduates receive an Associate of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Care and Education with a choice of paraprofessional specialization, infant toddler specialization or program management director specialization. To be employed in child care centers, public schools, or Head Start centers, an individual must have a satisfactory criminal background check. Persons who have been convicted of a felony offense are not employable in this field. Evidence of a current satisfactory criminal record background check is required at the student's expense prior to participation in practicum or internship.

Career Opportunities

Graduates may find employment as a paraprofessional in public schools, preschool teacher in Head Start, Early Head Start or private schools, private household childcare workers, or self-employed childcare providers.

Credit Required for Graduation: Minimum of 110 credit hours

Curriculum

The requirements for general core curriculum of all degree programs are a minimum 25 credit hours using the curriculum structure outlined in the beginning of this degree program section. All course prerequisites must be met. Please see Associate Degree General Education Requirement Section for Area I, Area II, and Area III requirements.

General Core Courses

_____ Area I requirements (minimum 10 hours)

_____ Area II requirements (minimum 5 hours)

_____ Area III requirements (minimum 5 hours)

_____ Additional 5 hours from Area I, II or III

In addition to the above area selections, students in the Early Childhood Care and Education degree program must successfully complete PSY 1101 – Introduction to Psychology, and either ENG 1105 – Technical Communications or SPC 1101 – Public Speaking, for a total of 30 hours.

Program Courses		Credits
<i>Occupational Courses</i>		
_____ SCT 100	Introduction to Microcomputers	3
_____ ECE 1010	Introduction to Early Childhood Care and Ed.	5
_____ ECE 1030	Human Growth and Development I	5
_____ ECE 1050	Health, Safety, and Nutrition	5

_____	ECE 1012	Curriculum Development	3
	<i>(continued)</i>		
_____	ECE 1013	Art for Children	3
_____	ECE 1014	Music and Movement	3
_____	ECE 1021	ECCE Practicum I	3
	-or-		
_____	ECE xxxx	Occupational Elective	(3)
_____	ECE 1022	ECCE Practicum II	3
	-or-		
_____	ECE xxxx	Occupational Elective	(3)
_____	ECE 2010	Exceptionalities	5
_____	ECE 2020	Social Issues and Family Involvement	5
_____	ECE 2115	Language Arts and Literature	5
_____	ECE 2116	Math and Science	5
_____	ECE 2240	Early Childhood Education Internship	12

-and-

Completion of one of the following specializations:

	<i>Specific Occupational Courses (Paraprofessional Specialization)</i>		
_____	ECE 2030	Human Growth and Development II	5
_____	ECE 2110	Methods and Materials	5
_____	ECE 2120	Professional Practices and Classroom Management	5
	-or-		
	<i>Specific Occupational Courses (Program Management Specialization)</i>		
_____	ECE 2170	Program Administration	5
_____	ECE 2210	Facility Management	5
_____	ECE 2220	Personnel Management	5
	-or-		
	<i>Specific Occupational Courses (Infant and Toddler Specialization)</i>		
_____	ECE 2132	Infant/Toddler Development	5
_____	ECE 2134	Infant/Toddler Group Care	5
_____	ECE 2136	Infant/Toddler Curriculum	5