

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM

Early Childhood Education is critical to child success in the classroom and other early care settings as it impacts lifelong achievement. Through partnerships with families, reflective practice, and evidence-based knowledge, students will graduate prepared to work with today's children and families. The program curriculum emphasizes Developmentally Appropriate Practice and standards established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Courses are offered in a variety of formats (in-person, hybrid, asynchronous online) to meet diverse student needs.

"I couldn't ask for a better life lesson than to be in the classroom learning and teaching beside a teacher with over ten years of experience.

The Early Childhood Education program has been a life changing experience. The support of the Education staff has made my dream of being a teacher an achievable goal."



Prepare young children for a successful future



What Early Childhood Education graduates do:

- Exhibit proficiency of the NAEYC Professional Standards and Competencies
- Demonstrate ethical behaviors and decision making guided by an ethical code of conduct
- Partner with families to foster child development and school success
- Observe and assess child skills and development
- Exercise intentional interactions with children and families to connect and foster development in all developmental domains for children ages birth to 8.
- Use reflective practice to improve upon teaching strategies and promote lifelong learning

Career Opportunities:

- Preschools and childcare centers
- Developmental therapy centers
- After-school programs
- Elementary schools
- Family and small businesses
- Head Start programs

For further questions about this program, please contact: kvccadmissions@maineccc.edu

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Associate in Applied Science Degree

First Semester

COM104	Introduction to Communication	OR	
COM105	Interpersonal Communication		3
ECE131*	Intro to Early Childhood Education		3
ECE136*	Program Foundations in ECE		1
ECE152*	Children's Literature		3
ENG101	College Composition		3
PSY101	Introduction to Psychology		3

Second Semester

ECE132*	Early Lang & Lit Development		3
ECE140*	Fostering Growth and Development: Infants and Toddlers		3
ECE156*	Field Experience I - The Use of Observation in the Field		4
MAT112	Foundation of Math for Teachers		3
SOC101	Introduction to Sociology		3

Third Semester

ECE138*	Early Learning Environments		3
ECE158*	Introduction to Exceptionalities in Early Childhood		3
ECE200*	Field Experience II - Partnerships in Early Childhood		4
PHI110	Intro to Contemporary Ethics (H)		3
PSY215	Developmental Psychology		3

Fourth Semester

BIO110	Scientific Inquiry (SC)		4
ECE210*	Classroom Management		3
EDU202*	Diversity and Cultural Responsiveness in Education		3
ECE250*	Field Experience III - A Focus on Families and Professional Development		6

Total Credits

64

CRITERIA FOR GRADUATION

Students must complete 64 credits in the Early Childhood Education program and achieve a minimum grade of "C" in all core courses (*); students must attain a final GPA of 2.0 or higher. (H,SC) Suggested Electives. Please contact your advisor for more information.

This program is accessible 100% online.

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DESCRIPTION

The objective of the Early Childhood Education program is to prepare students to provide developmentally appropriate services for young children in public and private institutions and agencies, such as Head Start, childcare centers, schools, or family childcare homes.

PROGRAM MISSION

We cultivate a skilled and knowledgeable early childhood workforce in alignment with the National Association for the Education of Young Children's Professional Standards and Competencies, and in partnership with community stakeholders.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

The primary goal of the Education Program is to prepare a skilled and knowledgeable workforce for young children. By supplying high quality training, the Education Program can positively influence the lives of

children, enabling them to perform at their personal best academically as well as socially. All students are urged to work closely with their advisor to ensure they meet all prerequisites and are prepared to be successful in their field placements.

Upon completion of the Early Childhood Education degree:

1. Graduates will explain and apply key concepts of child development from birth through age 8 in their practice, including support for each unique learner in the context of relationships.
2. Graduates will demonstrate respectful, responsive, and reciprocal relationships with diverse families, utilizing community resources to support child outcomes and family needs.
3. Graduates will describe the purpose and demonstrate skill in applying a variety of child screening, observation, documentation, and assessment techniques.

4. Graduates will demonstrate developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate teaching practices.
5. Graduates will develop and implement curriculum plans that reflect content knowledge across the domains of development and in alignment with early learning standards.
6. Graduates will demonstrate professionalism through adherence to ethical guidelines, effective communication practices, collaborative approaches, ongoing reflection, and advocacy on behalf of children, families, and the field of early childhood education.

FIELD PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Field Placements are a key component of the Early Childhood Education Program. Before enrolling in a field placement course, students must have completed other technical courses required.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students must pass comprehensive background checks, including fingerprinting clearance prior to registering for their first field experience. Additional informational will be provided by the Early Childhood Education department regarding the specific procedures for background checks that align with students' field experience and career plans. Students are responsible

for costs associated with background checks. Talk to the Field Placement Coordinator if you require assistance with related costs.

Individual students who have engaged in certain criminal activity could be denied access to gainful employment in their intended field. Field placement sites may also deny access to their site if they have been convicted of certain crimes or substantiated cases found by the Department of Health and Human Services.

COLLEGE ADMISSION

General admission guidelines can be found on [page 33](#) in the catalog.

ECE PROGRAM CURRICULUM AND PHILOSOPHY ENCOMPASSES:

- Standards established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Current trends
- Evidence-based practice
- Developmentally appropriate practice
- Educators as lifelong learners
- A professional obligation to advance equity in early childhood education
- Integration of nature, agriculture, STEAM, and wellness into the Early Childhood experience!