

Degree: **Associate in Applied Science**

Major: **EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION (ECE3)**

Credit Requirements: 63 semester credit hours (66 if pursuing transfer)

This program prepares graduates for early childhood positions as paraprofessional teacher assistants in public school systems, and teachers in federal Head Start programs, child care development programs, and homes that serve young and school-age children. The No Child Left Behind Act, signed into law in 2002, addresses educational qualifying factors for many paraprofessionals. Graduates in the associate degree program may transfer to a four-year degree program, but the program is not designed as a transfer program.

Key topics covered include Infant and Toddler Development, Early Childhood Development, Child Care Management, School-Age Child Care and Early Childhood Special Education. Laboratory experience is held in diverse settings that allow for quality practical and hands-on experience.

Our interactive learning lab and training classroom provides students and faculty with hands-on demonstrations of developmentally appropriate theory and practice. The program also has the following admission requirements as prerequisites to labs and licensed child care centers:

- Negative TB Test
- Criminal background check
- Drug screening
- Medical Health Form
- Health Statement
- Notarized Statement of Non-Conviction

In addition to criminal background checks, some child development centers and schools may require fingerprinting as well. Students entering these laboratory courses may opt to additionally be fingerprinted. Fingerprinting **and** a criminal background check are required for the Early Care and Education workforce.

“Research clearly shows that a key component in the quality of preschool, child care and other programs for young children is the preparation and ongoing professional development of teachers. For a growing number of early childhood teachers, the associate degree is the first significant degree in their ladder of professional credentials.” (Jerlean Daniel, Ph. D., Deputy Executive, National Association for the Education of Young Children)

FIRST SEMESTER (FALL)

ECD 101	Introduction to Early Childhood	3
ECD 102	Growth and Development I	3
ENG 155	Communications I	3
	OR	
ENG 101	English Composition I*	3
	AND	
SPC 205	Public Speaking*	3
CPT 101	Introduction to Computers	3
ECD 132	Creative Experiences**	3
	TOTAL	15 (18)

SECOND SEMESTER (SPRING)

ECD 203	Growth and Development II	3
ECD 105	Guidance-Classroom Management	3
ECD 200	Curriculum Issues in Infant & Toddler Devel.	3
ECD 131	Language Arts**	3
MAT 155	Contemporary Mathematics	3
	OR	

MAT 110	College Algebra*	3
	TOTAL	15
THIRD SEMESTER (SUMMER)		
ECD 107	Exceptional Child	3
ECD 133	Science and Math Concepts**	3
ECD 135	Health, Safety and Nutrition	3
	TOTAL	9
FOURTH SEMESTER (FALL)		
PSY 201	General Psychology	3
ECD 106	Observation of Young Children	3
ECD 201	Principles of Ethics & Leadership in Early Care and Education	3
ECD 237	Methods and Materials	3
	TOTAL	12
FIFTH SEMESTER (SPRING)		
PSY 203	Human Growth and Development	3
PHI 103	Workplace Ethics	3
	OR	
	Humanities Elective*	3
ECD 243	Supervised Field Experience **	3
ECD 108	Family and Community Relations	3
	OR	
ECD 252	Diversity Issues in Early Care and Education	3
	TOTAL	12
	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	63 (66)

*Students planning to transfer to a senior college should take the university transfer courses, as noted.

**Students are required to participate in lab/class assignments involving visitations to/work in licensed child care facilities.