

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Program Code: S.CHD.AAS

Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.)

Minimum graduation requirement — 60 semester hours

The Early Childhood Education program provides practical and hands-on learning experiences to prepare students to work in a variety of early childhood settings, from childcare centers and family homecare programs to schools from Pre-K to 2nd grade.

An associate's degree in ECE is the first step to teaching young children in Illinois public schools, preschools, private elementary schools, and Head Start. Students will complete specific requirements and a minimum of 60 semester credit hours to earn both an associate's degree and the Illinois Gateways Level 4 Early Childhood Education credential. Students can then transfer into a 4-year program in early childhood education as a junior, complete a bachelor's degree, and gain the Illinois Professional Educator License to teach birth through 2nd grade.

The program also fulfills the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services requirements for head teachers in childcare centers and family home care programs, and students have the option of adding ECE 260 to complete Center Director requirements.

Courses are offered in hybrid and online formats to allow flexibility for working students.

Program Notes*

- A criminal background investigation is required prior to field experience. Students are responsible for any fees.
- To take ECE 222 and ECE 280, students must have a 2.0 GPA and instructor approval.
- Students who will be transferring to an Early Childhood Education bachelor's degree program are strongly encouraged to take MAT 106 or 107.

Suggested Full-time Sequence

FALL	SPRING
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>2nd Semester</i>
ECE 122	ECE 124
ECE 123	ECE 144
ECE 125	ECE 227
ENG 101	COM 120
or ENG 111	Phys/LS elec
PSY 207	

FALL	SPRING
<i>3rd Semester</i>	<i>4th Semester</i>
ECE 201	ECE 242
ECE 222	ECE 260
ECE 223	ECE 280
ECE 224	or Gen elec
Hum/FA elec	

Required Program Courses (45 hours) Cr. Hrs.

PSY 207	Introduction to Child Psychology	3
ECE 122	Introduction to Early Childhood Education . . .	4
ECE 123	Socialization and Guidance for the Young Child . .	2
ECE 124	Program Planning for the Young Child	3
ECE 125	Observation and Assessment	3
ECE 144	Caring for Infants and Toddlers	4
ECE 201	Health, Safety, and Nutrition of the Young Child	3
ECE 222	Assisting in the Child-Care Center	5
ECE 223	Child, Family, and Community	3
ECE 224	Creativity, Math, and Science for the Young Child	4
ECE 227	Language and Literature for the Young Child . .	3
ECE 242	The Exceptional Child	4
ECE 280	Field Experience in the Child-Care Setting . . .	4

Required General Education Core Courses (15 hours)

ENG 101	Composition I	
or ENG 111	Workplace Writing	3
COM 120	Interpersonal Communication	3
	Humanities/Fine Arts elective	3
	Physical/Life Sciences elective	3
	General Education elective	3

Total Semester Credit Hours Required 60