

# 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       |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1st Semester | 2nd Semester |
| 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       |
|--------------|--------------|
| 3rd Semester | 4th Semester |
| 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 |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <i>Total Semester Credit Hours Required</i> | <b>60</b> |
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