

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, A.A.S.

Entry Time

Fall, Spring, Summer

Award

Associate of Applied Science (4 terms)

Associate of Arts Liberal Arts (transfer degree)

The Early Childhood Education program provides several options for students interested in the care and education of young children. Students in the program have opportunities to participate in a variety of community early childhood programs, including Head Start centers, kindergarten classrooms, voluntary four-year-old programs and child care centers. Whenever possible, experience in inclusive and diverse settings will be encouraged.

Students planning to pursue an Early Childhood Education degree at a four-year institution follow the Liberal Arts program requirements while at Kirkwood, completing general education and elective courses that prepare them for transfer. Students hoping to start their careers without transferring should work with the Early Childhood Education advisor to choose from the Associate of Applied Science degree, diploma and certificate options.

Kirkwood has articulation agreements with a number of institutions offering degrees in early childhood. By working with your advisor in Early Childhood Education, you can select courses that will meet the requirements of your transfer institution such as foreign language, laboratory science, diversity and grade point average.

Career Opportunities

- lead teachers
- assistant teachers
- paraeducators
- early childhood program directors and child care providers in a variety of early childhood programs including child care centers
- child development homes
- preschools and Head Start programs

Degree Requirements

Course	Title	Credit Hours
Term 1		
ECE-103	Introduction to Early Childhood Education ¹	3
ECE-105	Technology for Early Childhood	1
ECE-158	Early Childhood Curriculum I	3
ECE-170	Child Growth and Development	3
ENG-105	Composition I ²	3
Math/Science Course (from approved list)		3
Term Totals:		16

Term 2		
ECE-159	Early Childhood Curriculum II	3
PSY-111	Introduction to Psychology	3
SPC-101 or SPC-112	Fundamentals of Oral Communication or Public Speaking	3
ENG-106	Composition II ²	3
Program Elective		3
Term Totals:		15
Term 3		
ECE-133	Child Health, Safety, and Nutrition	3
PSY-121	Developmental Psychology	3
EDU-248	Exceptional Persons	3
ECE-290	Early Childhood Program Administration	3
Program Elective		3
Term Totals:		15
Term 4		
ECE-221	Infant/Toddler Care and Education	3
ECE-243	Early Childhood Guidance	3
ECE-262	Early Childhood Field Experience	3
Program Electives		9
Term Totals:		18
Program Totals:		64

¹ Leads to certification as a paraeducator.

² Your writing placement score may require prerequisite courses.

Early Childhood Recommended Program Electives

Code	Title	Credit Hours
EDU-110	Exploring Teaching ¹	3
EDU-119	Behavior Management ¹	3
EDU-129	Inclusion and Adaptation ¹	3
EDU-240	Educational Psychology	3
EDU-249	Cultural and Linguistic Diversity ¹	3
EDU-258	Autism Spectrum Disorder Support	3
ASL-141	American Sign Language I	4
ASL-171	American Sign Language II	4
ECE-928	Independent Study	1
FLF-141	Elementary French I	4
FLF-142	Elementary French II	4
FLS-141	Elementary Spanish I	4
FLS-142	Elementary Spanish II	4
LIT-105	Children's Literature	3
HSV-109	Introduction to Human Services	3
SOC-110	Introduction to Sociology	3
SOC-120	Marriage and Family	3

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