

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE)

Also see Education Paraprofessional (EDUC) for information on a related program.

## Program Description

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) program prepares students for positions working with young children and families in a variety of early care and education settings. Students may pursue an Associate of Technical Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE), a one-year certificate in ECE, or an individually developed program including Early Childhood Education and other disciplines focused on a specific role in Early Childhood Education. Graduates of the Early Childhood Education ATA degree are often employed as lead teachers, family home visitors, or administrators in childcare, Head Start, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), and preschool programs. Courses meet the criteria addressed in the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation. The ECE ATA degree is articulated with Washington State Universities Human Development degree with an ECE specialization. Many specific courses in ECE transfer directly to Western Washington University or other four-year institutions. Check with the transfer counselor in the counseling and career services office for the most up-to-date information. Students may also choose courses for an Early Childhood endorsement to a Washington state teaching certificate or as electives to an AAUCT degree. The ECE program also offers preparation for the Child Development Associate Certificate (CDA). \ Please see the Department Chair for more information on courses offered for CDA preparation.

## Entry into the Program

Students may enter the program at the beginning of any quarter. For specific information contact the Admissions Office or the Department Chair.

According to Washington state law RCW 43.43.830, any person with a positive criminal history for "crimes" against persons' is not allowed to work with children. Background checks of criminal history are required of all students who work with children in any setting. Participants in this program will be required to provide a

disclosure statement which will be submitted to the Washington State Patrol in order to complete a criminal history background check.

All ECE courses require extensive reading and writing. At least one ECE course will be designated as "writing" or "speech" intensive each quarter. Students should expect to participate in both individual and group assignments. Written assignments in ECE classes at the Mount Vernon Campus are required to be typewritten or computer generated.

## Work-Based Learning

Students will integrate classroom learning with work-based learning experience in Cooperative Education (ECE 199) at a supervised work site. Department Chair approval is required. Credits and grades are based on job-hours worked, work performance, and completion of the learning objectives specified in the learning contract. Concurrent enrollment in the Cooperative Education Seminar or seminars with a member of the department is required. A minimum of four credits of ECE 199 is required for completion of the Early Childhood Education ATA degree.

## Associate of Applied Science— Transfer Degree (AAS-T)

This degree not only offers the needed preparation in critical ECE content (as recommended by the National Association for the Education of Young Children Associate's Degree Standards) for employment upon graduation, but also prepares students for future transfer to a four-year college or university. It also better meets the current emphasis in ECE for teachers with a broader knowledge of general education. The AAS-T meets the requirements of employers, especially public school districts, federal Head Start programs and the state sponsored preschool program (ECEAP) for early childhood positions requiring a two-year ECE degree. The AAS-T keeps the ECE critical content (50 credits) from the ECE/ATA degree but specifies that the required general education courses meet the AAUCT's distribution areas and rigor.

The following four-year colleges and universities have specific bachelor degree programs that accept the AAS-T in Early Childhood Education. These include Eastern Washington University Child Studies degree, Washington State University Human Development degree, City University, Evergreen University, University of Phoenix, Devries and Seattle

Pacific University. This degree will be granted to SVC students completing with a 2.0 GPA. Entry into a baccalaureate program at a four-year school will require a higher GPA for admission. Students seeking transfer to degree programs other than those specifically designed for the AAS-T in ECE are urged to consider the direct transfer degree in preparation for transfer (AAUCT- see Chapter 6).

## SUGGESTED SCHEDULES

### ATA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

*Includes required ATA courses. Student schedule may vary based on entry point, credit load, and prerequisites. Consult with department chair or SVC counselor for scheduling options.*

#### FIRST YEAR

Fall .....	Cr	Winter .....	Cr	Spring .....	Cr
ECE 100.....	5	ECE 160.....	3	ECE 129.....	3
ECE 105.....	2	EDUC& 203.....	3	ECE 140.....	3
EDUC& 121.....	5	†MATH 100.....	5	ECE 215.....	3
†ENGL& 101.....	5	**Elec.....	2-4	*L/GE.....	5-10
OR †ENGL 170.3					
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>15+</b>	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>13+</b>	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>14+</b>

#### SECOND YEAR

Fall .....	Cr	Winter .....	Cr	Spring .....	Cr
ECE 102.....	3	‡ECE 199.....	2-6	ECE 202.....	4
ECE 130.....	3	ECE 201.....	4	ECE 223.....	5-7
‡ECE 199.....	2-6	ECE 230.....	3	EDUC 260.....	3
ECE 211.....	3	PE 200.....	2	**Elec.....	2-4
EDUC 245.....	3	SOSC 125.....	2		
SOSC 113.....	1				
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>15+</b>	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>13+</b>	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>14+</b>

\* Learning Community (5-10 credits) or 5 credits of General Education (culture, natural world or arts). Must be outside of technical area, approved by Department Chair. Please see INDEX regarding Learning Communities. Suggested General Education courses include: PSYC& 100, 200, CMST& 220 and World Language (Spanish, ASL, etc.)

\*\* Electives (total of 4-8 credits) approved by Department Chair, include; ECE 240, EDUC 246, EDUC& 122.

† Students who do not receive an appropriate test score will require additional coursework to develop necessary skills for entry into class.

‡ ECE 199 may be taken at any time during the two-year process. A minimum of four credits of ECE 199 must be completed.

### \*\*ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE - (AAS-T) TRANSFER DEGREE

*This transfer degree is accepted by Eastern WA University; Child Studies Degree; WSU: Human Development; City University, Evergreen University, University of Phoenix, Devries, and Seattle Pacific University.*

#### FIRST YEAR

Fall .....	Cr	Winter .....	Cr	Spring .....	Cr
ECE 100.....	5	ECE 160.....	3	ECE 129.....	3
OR EDUC& 202		ECE 230.....	3	ECE 140.....	3
ECE 102.....	3	EDUC& 121.....	5	CMST& 220.....	5
ECE 215.....	3	~ENGL 103.....	5	PSYC& 100.....	5
†ENGL& 101.....	5	OR ENGL 104		OR PSYC& 200	
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>16</b>

## SECOND YEAR

Fall.....Cr	Winter.....Cr	Spring.....Cr
ECE 130.....3	ECE 201.....4	ECE 202.....4
ECE 211.....3	EDUC& 203.....3	ECE 223.....5
†MATH 107.....5	EDUC 245.....3	*ART Elec.....5
*ART Elec.....5	EDUC 246.....4	*NASC Elec.....5

**Total..... 16 Total.....14 Total.....19**

\*Accepted courses include ART 141, 142, 143, 144; BIOL& 100, 211, 213, BIOL 105, 133; EASC 102, 111, MUSIC 100, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127; MUSC& 141, OCEA& 101, ASTR& 101, GEOL& 101, 110, 208; NASC 100. For a complete course list, please see the department chair.

\*This degree will be granted to SVC students completing with a 2.0 GPA.

† Students who do not receive an appropriate test score will require additional coursework to develop necessary skills for entry into class.

~ ENGL 101 needs to be taken in an integrated format. ENGL 103 or 104 needs to be taken in an integrated format. Please contact the Department Chair for further details.

## Program Certificates

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

A Certificate in Early Childhood Education may be granted upon completion of at least 45 college level credits which must include: ECE 100, 129, EDUC& 121, CMST& 210 or ECE 215, ENGL& 101 or ENGL 170, MATH 100, and 19-21 additional credits in Early Childhood and/or other courses as designated by the ECE advisor. The Early Childhood Education Certificate may be combined with the AAUCT degree for students wishing to transfer to a four-year institution in pursuit of a teaching certificate.

### INDIVIDUAL TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE

An Individual Technical Certificate may be developed in conjunction with other programs to meet marketable objectives and goals with Department Chair approval.

## Micro-Certificates

These certificates focus on a specific skill within this program. A certificate is awarded to students who complete the following with a 2.0 grade point average or above:

### PREPARATION FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CERTIFICATE (CDA)

The CDA is a competency-based certificate awarded by the Council for Early Childhood Professional Development in Washington, D.C. A series of three courses (ECE 203, 204, 205) and an optional fourth course (ECE 206) prepares students for the application to the CDA credential.

### BIRTH TO FIVE CERTIFICATE (12 CREDITS)

May be earned after successful completion of the ECE 203, 204, and 205 CDA course sequence, plus one additional ECE elective (3 credits).

## Course Descriptions

### ECE 100 Introduction to Early Childhood Education (5)

Comprehensive introduction to the history, philosophy, research, and current issues in early childhood care and education. Weekly two-hour observations focusing on culturally responsive and developmentally appropriate practices in programs including Montessori, Head Start, and family and center child care for children birth to age 8 years.

### ECE 102 Child Guidance (3)

Teaching strategies and guidance techniques for individual and groups of children to prevent behavior problems, assist in solving problems, and promote the development of effective social skills.

### ECE 105 Child Abuse and Neglect (2)

Overview of the legal requirements, professional responsibilities and local laws and policies regarding child abuse and neglect. Reviews symptoms and remediation/intervention/prevention techniques.

### ECE 129 Nutrition, Health, and Safety in Early Childhood (3)

Review nutritional needs in normal developmental growth process, childhood illness, health records and regulations, society issues and procedures. Basic childhood nutrition, health and safety issues and requirements in early childhood and childcare programs. Meets DSHS requirements for State Training and Registry System (exceeds introductory 20 hour basic S.T.A.R.S.)

### ECE 130 Curriculum Development & Environments for Learning (3)

Approaches to planning environments and experiences that meet the diverse learning needs of children from infancy through third grade. Focuses on linking various early learning curriculum methods, standards and assessments to enhance language, cognition, social, emotional and physical development. Prerequisite: ECE 100 and 220 or instructor permission.

### ECE 140 Issues and Trends in Education (3)

Review and discussion of current issues and special topics regarding school, community, and home relationships affecting education.

### ECE 160 The Earliest Years: Birth to Age Three (3)

Focuses on the significance of childhood from birth to age three. Emphasis on caring relationships and early learning. Examines the range of typical and atypical development. Develop skills in noticing and responding to infant/toddler cues, forming partnerships with parents, designing culturally relevant and inclusive environments, encouraging sensory motor exploration, and nurturing play and development.

### ECE 170 STARS Training (2)

Basic training for childcare and entry-level early childhood education workers. Meets DSHS requirements for State Training and Registry System. (Introductory 20 hours required training).

### ECE 199 Cooperative Education (1-15)

Supervised work experience in the field. Includes a weekly seminar. Instructor permission required.

### ECE 201 Art, Music, and Movement for Children (4)

Practical ways to plan, select and prepare art, music and movement experiences for young children (birth to 8 years). Creative materials, activities and environments explored through a variety of curriculum methods and approaches. Includes weekly two-hour off-campus experience. Prerequisite: ECE 220 and/or Department Chair approval.

### ECE 202 Math, Science & Social Learning for Children (4)

Focuses on math, science and social understanding curriculum for children birth to 8 years. Explores the process of planning, selecting and preparing materials and experiences for young children. Includes weekly two-hour off-campus observations. Prerequisite: ECE 220 and/or Department Chair approval.

### ECE 203 Essentials of Child Development Associate Credential (CDA): Health & Safety (3)

The first of three courses in preparation for the Child Development Associates Credential (CDA). Examines how to establish and maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for young children.

**ECE 204 Essentials of Child Development Associate Credential (CDA): Child Development (3)**

Continuation of ECE 203. Examines positive ways to support children's social and emotional development and intellectual competence. Topics include communication, creativity, self-esteem, social and cognitive development. Explores typical and atypical development patterns for young children. Prerequisite: ECE 203 or instructor permission.

**ECE 205 Essentials of CDA: Working with Families, Program Management and Ethics. (3)**

Continuation of ECE 203 and 204. Examines working with families, program management and professionalism. Prerequisite: ECE 203 and 204 or instructor permission.

**ECE 206 Essentials of the Child Development Associates Credential (CDA): Resource File (3)**

Child Development Associates (CDA) resource file documentation of the required skills and knowledge to become a professional teacher of young children. Students who have completed the educational requirements for the CDA will be provided with information to help them apply, understand, define, and clarify the requirements established by the CDA National Credentialing program for center or home based settings. May be taken in conjunction with one of the other CDA courses. Prerequisite: ECE 203 or 204 or 205 or instructor's permission.

**ECE 211 Diversity in Education (3)**

Overview of diversity in education including culture, ethnicity, family structure, socio-economics and educational philosophy.

**ECE 215 School, Home, and Community Relations (3)**

Strategies and skills for effective interpersonal communication and collaboration between families, teachers, paraprofessionals, students and community professionals. Interactions between the home, school and community and their influence on the development of a child.

**ECE 223 Practicum and Seminar (1-7)**

Practical application of curriculum. Attend a weekly seminar and work with children in a classroom setting under the supervision of a lead teacher. Experiences will include

program planning, classroom management, and parent contact. Prerequisite: ECE 201 and Department Chair approval.

**ECE 230 Observation, Records and Assessment (3)**

Learn to make assessments of childhood characteristics through observation and record keeping of children in a learning environment using the principles of child development. Maintain a portfolio of a selected child to demonstrate authentic assessment techniques. Prerequisite: ECE 220 or Department Chair permission.

**ECE 240 Administration, Management & Supervision of Family/Child Programs (3)**

Administration and management of early childhood education and child care programs in both the public and private sector.