PENINSULA COLLEGE

Degree Guide:

Early Childhood Education, Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degree

Program
Early Childhood Education (ECED/ECED&)
Degree Type
Professional Technical Degree
Program Coordinator

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Program Description

Course work in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program combines theory and practical experience for work with young children and their families. Courses include child development, child behavior and guidance, children with special needs, planning early childhood learning environments, planning developmentally appropriate curriculum, and working with families. Practicum courses provide opportunities to apply theoretical knowledge to planning and presenting curriculum, and for working with children and staff in early childhood centers. Successful completion of this program leads to an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Early Childhood Education. Prospective ECE students should be aware of the fact that they will have to complete a background check.

As of fall 2019, this program requires students to achieve a grade of 2.0 or above in all ECED and EDUC classes to progress through and complete the program.

Program Length: 6 Quarters
Program Code: CCMECAPT

Career Opportunities and Earnings

A variety of child care, preschool, school district, recreational, and community programs offer career opportunities in early childhood education. Also, opportunities are increasing for family support paraprofessionals in human service and mental health agencies. With additional experience, training, and education, graduates may pursue a variety of career pathways in education and administration. The demand for trained early childhood educators is increasing and should remain strong over the next several years.

- Child care specialists
- Curriculum program managers
- Head Start/ECEAP preschool teachers/home visitors/family service advocates and school-age care staff
- Paraprofessional educators in elementary schools
- Teachers in childcare centers
- Teacher's assistant

For current employment and wage estimates, please visit and search for the relevant occupational term: [bls.gov/oes/](bls.gov/oes/).

Program Outcomes

When this program is completed, the student will be able to:

- Use evidence-based information about child development and learning to critically think and implement equitable teaching practices
- Demonstrate effective relationship building skills with children, families, and community members
- Utilize appropriate observation, documentation, and assessment information to support children's development and families
- Apply developmentally appropriate practices when working with children and families
- Plan, implement, and evaluate meaningful curriculum for young children
- Demonstrate personal characteristics, knowledge, and skills necessary to provide programs that facilitate children's learning in a professional manner

Special Features

- ECE students may pursue an Associate in Arts, Direct Transfer Agreement (AA-DTA) either independently of or simultaneously with the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree. Contact program advisors for guidance on degree opportunities. Demonstrate effective relationship building skills with children, families, and community members
- In addition to the 90 credit degree and the 47 credit one-year certificate, short-term certificates are also available
- The ECE program is open entry with few prerequisite course requirements. Courses are offered online and may have a virtual class meeting in late afternoons and evenings to accommodate working students. Most courses are open to students for personal enrichment, elective, and continuing education credit
- ECE students may begin the program during any quarter and enroll part-time or full-time
- The on-campus childcare center serves as one the primary ECE laboratories for students. Lab experiences may also be arranged in other locations.
- All courses have an online component

Program Prerequisites

College-level skills in English and math (eligibility for courses numbered 100 or higher) are required before registering for the English and math courses required in this program. Students entering this program should have good computer and typing skills. Students may need to complete prerequisite coursework. The placement test will help determine placement level if not known. Previous coursework may also indicate placement level.

Approximate Additional Costs

- Books, supplies and miscellaneous fees (per quarter): $500
- TB Test: $15
- Food Handler's Permit: $10
- HIV/AIDS Training: $79
- First Aid Card: $120
- Background Check: $55

Sample Schedule

This sample schedule is provided as a guide for a full-time student starting in fall quarter whose goal is to earn an AAS. The typical student schedule is based on entering the program during the fall quarter, however some programs allow students to enter in the winter or spring as well. Since not all do, please confirm with an advisor whether this program must be started during a specific quarter or not.

First Quarter (Fall)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
ECED& 105	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	5
ECED& 107	Health, Nutrition, and Safety	5
ECED& 120	Practicum	2
HUMDV 101	Success in the Online Classroom	1

Second Quarter (Winter)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
ECED& 160	Curriculum Development	5
ECED& 190	Observation and Assessment	3
EDUC& 115	Child Development	5
EDUC& 130	Guiding Behavior	3

Third Quarter (Spring)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
ECED 147	Practicum II	5
ECED& 170	Environments	3
ECED& 180	Language and Literacy Development	3
EDUC& 150	Child, Family, and Community	3
FA 105 or FA 180		1

Fourth Quarter (Fall)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
ECED 161	Math for Young Children	2
ECED 260	Practicum III	5
EDUC& 203	Exceptional Child	3
ENGL& 101	English Composition I	5

Fifth Quarter (Winter)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
MATH 106 or MATH& 107		5
PSYC& 100	General Psychology	5
Sociology Elective		5

Students planning to transfer to a School of Education should take MATH 106 and MATH 108. Students should work with the Early Childhood Education Program Advisor.

Sixth Quarter (Spring)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
EDUC 240	Advancing Equity in Education	3
Elective		3
Elective or MATH 108		5
Natural Sciences		5

Your personal educational plan will vary based on many factors including:

- The quarter you begin
- How many classes/credits you plan to take in each quarter
- Your math and English placement; Learn more about placement options by visiting the [Assessment and Placement website.](#)
- If you start in our [Transitional Studies](#) program

Total Credits   **90**