

Early Childhood Development and Care

Degree Awarded: Associate in Applied Science

Recommended Course Sequence

First Semester Credits

ENG 101	Freshman English 1	3
PSY 111	Introduction to Psychology	3
EDU 105	Preparing to Teach Young Children	2
EDU 101	Child Development 1++	3
EDU 111	Childhood Health and Safety	3
EDU 107	Mandated Trainings	1
PES 100	Concepts of Physical Wellness	1

Second Semester

ENG 102	Freshman English 2	3
EDU 102	Child Development 2++	3
_____	SUNY Gen Ed Elective**	3
MAT ____	SUNY Math* (GE1)	3
EDU 208	Home, School, Community	3
PES ____	Physical Education	1

Third Semester

COM 101	Foundations of Communication	3
EDU 109	Language and Literacy Development in the Young Child	3
EDU 203	Child Care Curriculum Development/Field Experience 1++	5
EDU 201	Observation & Assessment++	3
_____	SUNY Gen Ed Elective**	3

Fourth Semester

PED 156	Infant/Child First Aid & CPR	1
EDU 202	Infant and Toddler Development and Curriculum++	3
EDU 204	Child Care Curriculum Development/Field Experience 2++	5
EDU 206	Administration and Management of Child Care Centers	3
_____	SUNY Gen Ed Elective**	3

Total Credits: 64

++ Local daytime observations beyond college classroom required.

* MAT 102 or higher (MAT 111 recommended)

** These electives MUST satisfy **three (3) different** SUNY General Education categories chosen **ONLY** from: Natural Sciences (GE2), American History (GE4), Western Civilization (GE5), Other World Civilizations (GE6), Arts (GE8), Foreign Languages (GE9), with at least **ONE** from either Category GE 4, GE 5 or GE 6.

Program Description

The Associate in Applied Science degree program in Early Childhood Development and Care prepares students for responsible and effective employment in positions ranging from aide to head teacher in a variety of early childhood settings. (*Note: In order to be a Universal PreK teacher a four-year degree is required. See an Education Department adviser to determine the appropriate transfer degree program.*)

The program provides theory, practical information and extensive supervised experience concerning normal early human development, developmental difficulties, caring for and educating young children, methods for fostering child development, and the operation and management of early childhood facilities.

The primary goals of the Early Childhood Development and Care program are to develop cognitive and critical thinking skills through an integrated education plan; to promote the use of applied knowledge of developmentally appropriate practices in both the College classroom and early learning field site environments; to furnish opportunities for self-directed, creative, professional learning activities; to provide field experiences ranging from minimal observation to full participation, allowing students to demonstrate increasing technical skills working with young children.

Because current research shows that the early years are among the most vital in human development, professional and appropriate educational experiences will develop the ECDC student's thinking, practical and personal skills necessary to teach and care for young children. These activities take place in college classes and seminars, and also in local area field sites. In the field, extensive "hands-on" observation and participation give opportunities to apply education principles, receive individual guidance and feedback, and be involved first-hand, with day-to-day activities in diverse early childhood learning environments. Upon completion of the coursework students will have accumulated 235 hours of field work.

A grade of C (2.00) or better is required in all EDU courses for progression in the program and graduation with an A.A.S. or Certificate in Early Childhood Development and Care.

Admission Criteria

Admission to this program requires that students be high school graduates or have high school equivalency diplomas (HSEs). If students are not high school graduates, they may be eligible for admission to the College's 24 Credit Hour Program. If students are home schooled, they may be eligible for admission. (See pages 7 through 13 for more details on the admission process for all applicants.)

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Program Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Demonstrate a firm foundation of knowledge in child development.
- Understand essential concepts of developmentally appropriate practice in teaching young children.
- Understand and value the importance of children's diverse families and communities, and how to use that knowledge to foster respectful, reciprocal relationships with children and their families.
- Understand the goals, benefits, and uses of assessment, and be able to effectively use developmentally appropriate observation and assessment practices.
- Design, implement, and evaluate developmentally appropriate curriculum and environments for young children.
- Understand and uphold ethical standards and other professional guidelines in the field of early childhood, and engage in, practice that is both collaborative and reflective in college classrooms and through extensive field assignments.
- Demonstrate college level proficiency in written and oral communication, critical thinking, and analytical, mathematical, and scientific reasoning.



Career Opportunities

- center director
- head teacher (non-public settings)
- teacher assistant
- family child care provider
- early childhood business owner
- nanny or au pair
- early intervention specialist
- recreation leadership
- home visitor
- child care resource and referral
- curriculum consultant

Transfer Opportunities

While the A.A.S. degree leads to immediate employment, SUNY Orange students have successfully transferred. Please check with the intended transfer school for details.

Contact Information

Education
Department Chair
341-4482
Admissions Office
(845) 341-4030