

Early Childhood Education, Certificate

School of Art, Humanities, Social Sciences and Public Service

Program Description

This program reflects the standards established by the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) for students in the field of early childhood education (ECE). The program provides an introduction to working in childcare settings with children from infancy through nine years while developing dispositions that center research based practices. Developmentally appropriate practices, cultural responsiveness, and inclusiveness are emphasized as skills necessary for effective graduates. Supervised field experience is required and can be completed at approved early childcare sites. Credits earned in this program can be applied toward the requirements of the Diploma, AA, and AAS degrees. This program is available in online and lecture formats.

Career Opportunities

Program completers will be eligible for entry-level positions in ECE and are prepared to enter the early childhood workforce on Level A of OCDEL'S Career Pathway. Graduates are qualified for positions as: support staff, teaching staff with support in birth-prek settings, and out-of-school care.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- NAEYC 1: Promote child development and learning in context.
- NAEYC 2: Build family-teacher partnerships and community relationships.
- NAEYC 6: Demonstrate professionalism as an early childhood educator.

Program Requirements

Students must achieve a grade of "C" in all ECE courses to complete this program. Students are required to complete all clearances and requirements per field experience sites.

| Sugg. Term | Seq # | Course ID | Course Title | Cr | Prereq/Coreq(Co) | Options Available |
|------------|-------|-----------|---|----|---|-------------------|
| 1st Fall | 1 | PDV 101 | First Year Seminar | 1 | | |
| | 2 | ECE 155 | Introduction to Early Childhood Education | 3 | | |
| | 3 | ECE 257 | Introduction to Exceptional Development | 3 | | |
| 1st Spring | 4 | ECE 165 | Family and Society | 3 | | |
| | 5 | ECE 167 | Creative Experiences | 3 | | |
| 2nd Fall | 6 | ECE 156 | Infant & Toddler Development | 3 | | |
| | 7 | ECE 283 | Infant & Toddler Practicum | 1 | Completed interest form, site agreement, and liability insurance. Verify prerequisites with the program director to register; Co: ECE 156 | |
| 2nd Spring | 8 | ECE 157 | Child Growth and Development | 3 | | |

Minimum Program Credits

20

ERCCT