



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (703)

Associate of Applied Science

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

This program is designed to provide the early childhood education professional with knowledge to care for children in child care centers, family child care, school-age programs, and preschools. The program offers opportunities both in the classroom as well as field work experience to practice skills learned. The field of early childhood covers children, birth through eight years of age.

This applied science program contains 41 Required ECE Courses, 15 required related courses consisting of general education courses, and 6 ECE Elective courses. The program of study must be taken in its entirety to meet degree requirements.

Courses within the curriculum are based on the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, the Early Childhood Education Content Area Standards, and the Early Childhood Special Education standards. As a “blended” Associate Degree program, the courses integrate knowledge and effective practices from the fields of early childhood education and early childhood special education, which prepares students to recognize, support, and enhance the vast diversity of child and family development and learning needs.

Both of the early childhood certificates, Level II Credential (723) and Level III Credential (713), are wholly contained in the Early Childhood Education degree.

NATURE OF WORK AND EMPLOYMENT

Early Childhood graduates with an AAS degree are qualified to be employed as teachers and directors in child development centers licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Head Start, preschools, family child care providers, and in agencies providing family support. AAS graduates must demonstrate good physical and emotional health and submit to a background check before working in any children’s facility.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This degree does NOT prepare students for Illinois State Board of Education teacher certification and does NOT prepare students for transferring, though some general education courses are transferable. Some of the Early Childhood Education courses will be transferable at some colleges. Please check with your advisor regarding specific requirements.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Call Highland at 815-235-6121 for the following program contacts:

Mr. Scott Anderson, Dean of Business & Technology
Ms. Melissa Johnson, Coordinator of Early Childhood Ed
Ms. Vicki Schulz, Student Advisor



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Required ECE Courses 41 Sem. Hours

FALL COURSES

* ECE	121	Intro to Early Childhood Education	3
* ECE	124	Language & Literacy Dev in EC	3
* ECE	126	Observation & Guidance of Young Child	3
* ECE	127	Music and Movement for Young Child	3
* ECE	128	Practicum II	2
* ECE	203	Home, Scl, & Comm Relations in EC	3
* ECE	205	Intro to Infant/Toddler Care & Education	3
* ECE	206	Creative Activities for the Young Child	3

SPRING COURSES

* ECE	122	Child Growth and Development	3
* ECE	123	Hlth, Safety, & Nutrition of Yng Chld	3
* ECE	204	Exceptional Child in EC Programs	3
* ECE	207	Math and Science for the Young Child	3
* ECE	208	Supervision & Admin of Child Care Prog	3
* ECE	209	Practicum III	3

Required Related Courses 15 Sem. Hours

* BUSN	125	Business Math	3
* Communications	(COMM 101, BUSN 141, or ENGL 121)	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3
* INFT	180	Intro to Information Systems	3
SPCH	191	Fundamentals of Speech	3

ECE Required Electives (Choose 6 credits)

* ECE	125	Curr & Assessment in EC Settings	3
* ECE	202	Role Learn Envir & Play in ECE	3
* ECE	210	Legal & Fiscal Mgt of Child Care Programs	3
* ECE	211	Staff Mgt & Human Relations in Child Care	3
* ECE	212	Seminar in Early Childhood Education	3

Total Hours = 62

* Course has a prerequisite. See course descriptions.