



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (713)

Certificate Program 2 Level III Credential

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

This program is for students who wish to qualify as an early childhood teacher or school-age worker (as defined by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services) in a DCFS-licensed program. In order to work as a state-certified Early Childhood Educator in a school district, students must obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Persons desiring child care teaching positions must also have at least 1,560 clock hours of child development experience in a child care program licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Some of the required hours can be met in the Practicum offered at HCC.

NATURE OF WORK AND EMPLOYMENT

Typical job positions that program graduates may enter into include family child care provider, child care worker, child care assistant, nanny positions, and other programs serving infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Graduates plan and present learning activities for small children, observe and document children's behavior, and work closely with teachers, directors, and parents to promote the growth and development of children.

The certificate program is NOT recommended for those seeking leadership positions in early childhood programs, such as director, assistant director, and senior teacher.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Certificate students must demonstrate good physical and emotional health and submit to a criminal background check before beginning any Practicum.

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

Required ECE Courses

35 Sem. Hours

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| * ECE | 121 | Intro to Early Childhood Education | 3 |
| * ECE | 122 | Child Growth and Development | 3 |
| * ECE | 123 | Hlth, Safety, & Nutrition of Yng Chld | 3 |
| * ECE | 124 | Language & Literacy Dev in EC | 3 |
| ECE | 126 | Observation & Guidance of Young Child | 3 |
| * ECE | 127 | Music and Movement for the Young Child | 3 |
| * ECE | 128 | Practicum II | 2 |
| * ECE | 203 | Home, Scl, & Comm Relations in EC | 3 |
| * ECE | 204 | Exceptional Child in EC Programs | 3 |
| * ECE | 205 | Intro to Infant/Toddler Care & Education | 3 |
| * ECE | 206 | Creative Activities for the Young Child | 3 |
| * ECE | 207 | Math and Science for the Young Child | 3 |

Related Required Courses

4 Sem. Hours

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| * Communications (COMM 101, BUSN 141, ENGL 121) | 3 |
| INFT Elective | 1 |

Total Hours =

39

* Course has a prerequisite. See course descriptions.