**Early Childhood Education**

*Associate in Applied Science - 62 credit hours*

**Purpose:** The Early Childhood Education program has been developed around the standards established by the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the credentialing guidelines for the Child Development Associate (CDA).

The curriculum is designed to provide students with a breadth of knowledge regarding child growth and development. Additionally, students will study age-appropriate curriculum and instructional techniques. A 480-hour field experience is necessary to satisfy the CDA requirement of the Council for Professional Recognition.

The college has articulation agreements with 18 high schools (up to six credits), Maine Roads to Quality (15 credits granted), UMA, UMF, and UMO (61 credits). To obtain six credits for field placement, a high school graduate must demonstrate 80 percent or better on all required competencies and 200 hours of field placement. To articulate into a baccalaureate program, a student must graduate with at least a 2.0 average and some universities require a higher average in College Composition. The student should check the agreements. Additional credits may be granted under portfolio analysis.

**Career Opportunities:** Graduates who hold an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education will qualify for positions as teachers or childcare center directors in a variety of public and private childcare facilities. For persons interested in working in Head Start or other federally supported childcare institutions, the Associate Degree is required for continuing employment. Graduates may also apply to the division of certification, Maine Department of Education, for Educational Technician II certification.

**Program Educational Outcomes:** Upon completion of the Associate in Applied Science degree in the Early Childhood Education program, the graduate is prepared to:

1. Understand and apply theory regarding various topics in Early Childhood Education, Psychology, Sociology and family studies.
2. Apply for the national CDA credential through the Council for Professional Recognition.
3. Demonstrate how to set up and maintain a healthy, safe environment.
4. Understand and demonstrate knowledge of child development and skill in observation.
5. Understand and demonstrate knowledge of the diverse manner in which children learn and develop by providing an environment of learning opportunities that supports their cognitive, social, emotional and physical development through developmentally appropriate programming.
6. Create a classroom environment that encourages friendship, cooperation, pro-social behavior, self-control, peer problem solving and active listening.
7. Demonstrate the ability to engage home, community and collegial resources to support students’ learning and well-being.
8. Provide classroom practices that foster positive gender identity, positive racial/cultural identity and positive individual identity.
9. Demonstrate awareness of business and management practices, maintenance and growth of self and legal issues related to the profession.
10. Meet standards established by the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the credentialing guidelines for the child development associate (CDA), and DHHS licensing.
11. Transfer credits earned through completion of the Associate in Applied Science Degree in the Early Childhood Education program to a baccalaureate degree program offered by a four-year institution.

**Early Childhood Education**

*Associate in Applied Science* ***-*** *62 credit hours*

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| **Course #** | **Course Title** | **Credits** |
| **Semester 1** |  |  |
| ECE101 | Introduction to Early Childhood Education | 3 |
| EDU190 | Field Experience in ECE, Elementary or High School I | 3 |
| ENG101 | College Composition | 3 |
| FYE100 | First Year Experience | 1 |
| PSY101 | Introduction to Psychology | 3 |
| PSY195 | Child and Adolescent Development | 3 |
|  | **Total** | **16** |
| **Semester 2** |  |  |
| ECE103 | Management, Professional & Personal Development in Early Childhood Education | 3 |
| EDU195 | Field Experience in ECE, Elementary or High School II | 3 |
| MAT | Math Elective of MAT112 or above | 3 |
| SED220 | Education of Young Children with Special Needs | 3 |
| SOC101 or  SOC102 | Introduction to Sociology or  Sociology of the Family | 3 |
|  | **Total** | **15** |
| **Semester 3** |  |  |
| BIO120 | General Biology | 4 |
| ECE210 | Child Guidance and Discipline | 3 |
| ECE230 | Curriculum in Early Childhood Education  (Birth to Age 3) | 3 |
| ENG180 | Children’s Literature | 3 |
| ENG107 | Speech | 3 |
|  | **Total** | **16** |
| **Semester 4** |  |  |
| ECE235 | Curriculum in Early Childhood Education (Ages 3-8) | 3 |
| ECE290 | Internship in Early Childhood Education | 6 |
| Elective | Approved Education or Nutrition Elective | 3 |
| Elective | Approved Humanities/Fine Arts elective | 3 |
|  | **Total** | **15** |

**Early Childhood Education**

*Certificate – 31 credit hours*

**Purpose:** The Early Childhood Education CDA certificate program at WCCC is a two-semester, integrated, comprehensive program covering 35 topics in Early Childhood Education in three courses (ECE101, ECE103, and PSY195), and 15 Early Childhood topics in special education and the field experience. Introduction to psychology, sociology of the family, college composition, and basic mathematics are also requirements, which give the student the background foundation for successful completion of the program. This certificate program is equivalent to the first year of an Associate degree in Early Childhood Education program. Students apply for the national CDA credential through the Council for Professional Recognition.

**National Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential:** Those students only interested in the CDA national credential from the Council for Professional Recognition must take the three courses (ECE101, ECE103, and PSY195) and the field experience that cover the 35 Early Childhood topics, which are based on the CDA competency goals and the NAEYC standards. These three courses include many different components, enabling participants to consider course material in small groups, large groups, and individually; with peers locally and across the country; and through written materials, visual images, hands-on activities and group discussion. The courses can be accessed through a distance-learning format if that suits the student. If students are not working in an early childhood setting, they must participate in the two field experiences. Portfolio analysis is available for those professionals already working in the field.

**Career Opportunities:** A CDA credential qualifies students for entry-level classroom, home-based childcare and home visitor positions. This is frequently the first professional milestone that practitioners choose. This option is for students seeking the CDA as a terminal credential at this time.

**Program Educational Outcomes:** Upon completion of the certificate curriculum in the Early Childhood Education program, the graduate is prepared to:

1. Apply for the national CDA credential.
2. Demonstrate how to set up and maintain a healthy, safe environment, and exhibit knowledge of necessary content in areas defined by DHHS licensing, NAEYC developmentally appropriate practices and CDA standards.
3. Understand and demonstrate knowledge of child development and skill in observation.
4. Understand and demonstrate knowledge of the diverse ways in which children learn and develop by providing an environment of learning opportunities that supports their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth through developmentally appropriate programming.
5. Create a classroom environment that encourages friendship, cooperation, pro-social behavior, self-control, peer problem solving and active listening.
6. Demonstrate the ability to engage home, community and collegial resources to support students’ learning and well-being.
7. Provide classroom practices that foster positive gender identity, positive racial/cultural identity and positive individual identity.
8. Demonstrate awareness of business and management practices, maintenance and growth of self and legal issues related to the profession.
9. Meet standards established by the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the credentialing guidelines for the Child Development Associate (CDA).
10. Understand and apply knowledge learned in the classroom through completion of a 400-hour supervised field experience.

**Early Childhood Education**

*Certificate- 31 credit hours*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Course #** | **Course Title** | **Credits** |
| **Semester 1** |  |  |
| ECE101 | Introduction to Early Childhood Education | 3 |
| EDU190 | Field Experience in ECE, Elementary or High School I | 3 |
| ENG101 | College Composition | 3 |
| FYE100 | First Year Experience | 1 |
| PSY101 | Introduction to Psychology | 3 |
| PSY195 | Child and Adolescent Development | 3 |
|  | **Total** | **16** |
| **Semester 2** |  |  |
| ECE103 | Management, Professional & Personal Development in Early Childhood Education | 3 |
| EDU195 | Field Experience in ECE, Elementary or High School II | 3 |
| MAT | Math Elective of MAT112 or above | 3 |
| SED220 | Education of Young Children with Special Needs | 3 |
| SOC101 or  SOC102 | Introduction to Sociology or  Sociology of the Family | 3 |
|  | **Total** | **15** |