

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION - ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS)

Description

The Early Childhood Education Associate of Applied Science prepares students with a strong emphasis in the theories, curriculum goals, and developmentally appropriate teaching and guidance strategies necessary to lead an early childhood classroom program or to work as a paraprofessional in public schools.

Program Learning Outcomes

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

1. Support child development and learning by understanding primary theories used in early childhood development and education.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of children's patterns of learning specific to developmental domains.
3. Build family and community relationships with particular attention to integrating knowledge of cultural diversity in educational learning environments and settings.
4. Observe, document, and assess learning and growth to support young children and families through program and curriculum planning.
5. Apply developmentally appropriate approaches to build meaningful curriculum and positive guidance strategies.
6. Apply knowledge of health and safety issues affecting child development within learning environments.
7. Prepare for professional expectations for the early childhood field by developing effective communication skills and demonstrating knowledge of professional standards, associations, licensures, and related laws governing early childhood education.

Entrance Requirements

Academic Entrance Requirements

Recommended:

- Complete ED 140 Introduction to Early Childhood Education before taking other Early Childhood Education (ECE) courses.

Other Entrance Requirements

Required:

- The ECE program requires a background check through the Oregon Employment Office-Child Care Division.
- Some field practicum sites may require documentation of current immunizations, including the COVID-19 vaccine. Please contact the program director if you have any questions.

Additional Program Costs (Beyond Standard Tuition/Fees and Textbooks)

Material Costs

- Background check (\$0 to \$70)
- Cost of mileage to and from field placement/practicum sites

Course Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
ED 140	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	4
ED 150	Environments & Curriculum in Early Childhood Education	4
ED 151	Observation & Guidance in Early Childhood Education Learning	4
ED 152	Family, School and Community Relationships in ECE	3
ED 172	Language and Literacy in Early Childhood Education	3
ED 173	Movement, Music and the Arts in Early Childhood Education	3
ED 174	Math, Science, and Technology in Early Childhood Education	3
ED 219 or ED 224	Multicultural Issues in Education Settings Anti-Bias Curriculum in Education	3-4
ED 250	Advanced Curriculum Development & Teaching Methods in Early Childhood Education	4
ED 261 & ED 262	Early Childhood Education Practicum I and Early Childhood Education Practicum II	6
ED 265	Children at Risk	3
ED 269	Exceptional Children in Early Childhood Education	3
Early Childhood Electives:		
Choose a minimum of 12 credits from the following list.		12
ED 141	Youth Mentoring and Advocacy	
ED 176	Supporting Social, Emotional, and Mental Health in Early Childhood	
ED 216	Foundations of Education	
ED 235	Teaching and Learning in a Digital Age	
ED 240	Purposeful Learning and Active Exploration through Play	
ED 245	Trauma Sensitive Classrooms	
ED 253	Learning Across the Lifespan	
ED 290	English Language Development in the Primary Classroom	
GEOG 272	Geography for Teachers	
Other Required Courses		
Discipline Studies (choose 2 courses)		6-10
ED 112 or ENG 221	Children's Lit & Curriculum Introduction to Children's Literature	3-4
ED 243 or FN 225 or HHP 266	Nutrition, Health and Safety for Young Children ¹ Human Nutrition Nutrition for Health	3-4
PSY 201	Mind and Brain	4
Choose one math course from the following:		3-4
BA 104	Business Math	
ED 114	Mathematics for Early Learning Educators	

MTH 105	Math in Society	
Or one course from the foundational requirements math list		
PSY 215	Developmental Psychology	4
SOC 201	Introduction to Sociology	4
WR 121	Academic Composition	4
WR 122 or WR 227	Argument, Research, and Multimodal Composition Technical Writing	4
Total Credits		90-98

¹ Students who may eventually complete a bachelor's degree should take FN 225 Human Nutrition.

Advising Notes

This degree is designed for students planning to enter their chosen career upon graduation. Often, only selected credits are considered transferable to public or private baccalaureate institutions.

The College's Early Childhood Education program works closely with four-year programs to prepare students for transfer opportunities in early learning, elementary education, and human service-related programs. In addition to working closely with programs, including OSU-Cascades and George Fox, the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree is fully articulated with Southern Oregon University's Early Childhood Development program and allows students to transfer directly as juniors and to become admitted into the Early Childhood Development program at Southern Oregon University (SOU) with no loss of credits to pursue a bachelor's degree. The program offers an excellent balance of early childhood and general education courses that support advanced study in the field of early childhood development.

Students should contact the SOU School of Education early in the beginning of their AAS in Early Childhood Education program to be advised about additional requirements and procedures for admission to the school or program. Students should be aware that if they transfer before completing this degree, their courses will be evaluated individually toward the general education requirements in effect at SOU. For more information, see the articulation agreement on the [SOU website](#).

Students wishing to use the AAS in ECE as a foundation for future licensure in K-12 classrooms should work closely with academic advisors in the education program to ensure appropriate transfer preparation. Students who are considering the Elementary Education Licensure program through OSU-Cascades may be able to apply several courses. Please connect with your advisor to explore options as well as additional classes which may be of benefit, such as College Success courses and LIB 100 Introduction to Finding Information.

For current and potential students who have obtained a Child Development Associate or Step 7 or higher on the Oregon Registry and who wish to apply this toward their AAS or certificates in Early Childhood Education, please speak with the program director, [Amy Howell](mailto:ahowell@cooc.edu) (ahowell@cooc.edu), to discuss options and next steps.

Performance Standards

- Academic Requirements:
 - Students must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA to earn a COCC certificate or degree.
 - All courses in the program must be completed with a grade of C or higher.

• Additional Requirements:

- Adhere to the field placement contract; and
- Adhere to confidentiality, health-related and no-smoking policies as they pertain to field placement settings.
- Refer to the student handbook on the [Early Childhood Education website](#) for an explanation of each of the above policies.

Sample Plan

First Term		Credits
ED 140	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	4
WR 121	Academic Composition	4
Choose one math course from the following:		3-4
BA 104	Business Math	
ED 114	Mathematics for Early Learning Educators	
MTH 105	Math in Society	
Or one course from the foundational requirements math list		
Credits		11-12
Second Term		
ED 150	Environments & Curriculum in Early Childhood Education	4
ED 243 or FN 225 or HHP 266	Nutrition, Health and Safety for Young Children or Human Nutrition or Nutrition for Health	3-4
ED 152	Family, School and Community Relationships in ECE	3
WR 122 or WR 227	Argument, Research, and Multimodal Composition or Technical Writing	4
Credits		14-15
Third Term		
ED 173	Movement, Music and the Arts in Early Childhood Education	3
ED 174	Math, Science, and Technology in Early Childhood Education	3
ED 219 or ED 224	Multicultural Issues in Education Settings or Anti-Bias Curriculum in Education	3-4
PSY 201	Mind and Brain	4
Credits		13-14
Fourth Term		
ED 151	Observation & Guidance in Early Childhood Education Learning	4
ED 265	Children at Risk	3
ED elective		3-4
SOC 201	Introduction to Sociology	4
Credits		14-15
Fifth Term		
ED 112 or ENG 221	Children's Lit & Curriculum or Introduction to Children's Literature	3-4
ED 269	Exceptional Children in Early Childhood Education	3
ED 172	Language and Literacy in Early Childhood Education	3

PSY 215	Developmental Psychology	4
Credits		13-14
Sixth Term		
Discipline Studies course		3-5
ED 250	Advanced Curriculum Development & Teaching Methods in Early Childhood Education	4
ED 261	Early Childhood Education Practicum I	3
ED elective		3-4
Credits		13-16
Seventh Term		
Discipline Studies Course		3-5
ED 262	Early Childhood Education Practicum II	3
ED elective		3-4
ED elective (if needed)		3-4
Credits		12-16
Total Credits		90-102