EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION A.A.S. DEGREE

www.clcillinois.edu/programs/ece

A.A.S. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Business and Social Sciences Division,
Room T302, (847) 543-2047

Degree: Associate in Applied Science,
Early Childhood Education
Plan 25EA

The Associate of Applied Science Degree program in Early Childhood Education prepares students for careers working with young children. Graduates of the program are DCFS-qualified to be lead teachers and directors in early childhood centers and school-age programs. Public school Pre-K programs may employ A.A.S. degree graduates as assistant teachers. Many of the required courses may transfer to four-year institutions with related programs. ECE 121, ECE 124, ECE 214, ECE 220, ECE 248, ECE 250, ECE 252 and EDU 242 require daytime field observation or classroom experience hours may require a current Illinois State Police criminal background check and/or current medical documentation. Check individual course descriptions and catalog information or contact the Early Childhood Education Department Chair for further guidance. After completion of this A.A.S. degree program, interested students will need to complete applications for the Illinois Gateways to Opportunity to qualify and receive the Level 4 Infant/Toddler Credential and the Level 4 ECE Credential. See Department Chair for more information.

To complete an A.A.S., students are strongly encouraged to meet with the Early Childhood Education department chair to identify coursework that will meet degree requirements.

SECOND SEMESTER  15-16
CMM 121  Fundamentals of Speech  3
Humansities or Fine Arts Elective  3
Physical or Life Science Elective: Any BIO, CHM, ESC, PHY, GEG 120 or GEG 121. Refer to course descriptions for prerequisites  3-4
ECE 116  Creative Activities  3
ECE 141  Health, Safety, and Nutrition  3

THIRD SEMESTER  15
ECE 214+  Group Care of Infants and Toddlers  3
ECE 223  Child, Family, and Community  3
ECE 229  Language Development and Early Literacy  3
ECE 241  Guidance and Social Development  3
ECE Elective  3

FOURTH SEMESTER  15
ECE 220+  Observation and Assessment  3
ECE 233  Young Children with Special Needs  3
ECE 242  Math Activities for Young Children or
MTH 140  Contemporary Mathematics or
MTH 141  Quantitative Literacy or
MTH 142  General Education Statistics  3
ECE 248  Assessment Seminar  3
ECE Elective  3

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ELECTIVES  6-8
Select 6-8 hours from the following. Students wishing to apply for the Illinois Gateways to Opportunity Level 4 Infant-Toddler and ECE entitled credentials must choose ECE 250, ECE 251, ECE 252, and ECE 253 as electives. In this situation, the student will complete this degree with 62 credit hours.

ECE 250*  ECE Practicum I- Infants and Toddlers and Curriculum Development I  4
ECE 251*  ECE Practicum II- Preschool and Curriculum Development II  4
ECE 252*  Administration of ECE Programs  3
ECE 270  Administration of ECE Programs  3

TYPICAL JOBS
• Teacher
• Preschool Teacher
• Lead Teacher
• Pre-K Teacher
• Group Teacher
• Early Childhood Teacher
• Head Start Teacher
• Toddler Teacher
• Associate Teacher

EMPLOYERS
• Child Care Centers
  Bright Horizons, Knowledge Learning, Goddard School, YMCA centers, area Park District and Community-Center Programs.
• Privately-Funded Pre-K programs
• Illinois Publicly-Funded "Preschool for All" programs
• Head Start and Early Head Start programs
• Home-based child care and child care group homes

TRANSFER
Credits from CLC’s Early Childhood Education CAREER Program transfer toward a bachelor’s degree. CLC has agreements with the following institutions:
• National Louis University
• Northern Illinois University
• Roosevelt University

GETTING STARTED
For steps on how to apply and register, visit www.clcillinois.edu/admission.

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ECE 250 and ECE 252 each require 150 hours of classroom work in a NAECY accredited early childhood center. These courses also require all course prerequisites (see course descriptions in catalog), as well as a current criminal clearance and DCFS mandated medical requirements. Completion of two practicums and relevant curriculum courses will require an additional semester to complete.

ECE 251 and ECE 253 must be taken concurrently (in an online format) with the coordinating practicum course.

Illinois Gateways to Opportunity awards entitlement status to higher education institutions that align their coursework with credential requirements. Students who complete the required courses may meet Gateways credential component requirements, and have up to two years to apply to receive their credential(s). Visit www.illigateways.com/en/gateways-to-opportunity-credentials.

ECE 299, EDU 121, EDU 222, EDU 223, EDU 224, EDU 225, EDU 242, EDU 299, ENG 128, ENG 262, EDU 299, and Bilingual Education 3

Total A.A.S. Degree 60-62

For students wishing to obtain a teaching credential in the State of Illinois, a grade of C or above is compulsory for all coursework required for the teaching credential. This includes courses in the major, all education courses, and required general electives. This is effective for those applying for teacher certification as of 2012 (Illinois State Board of Education).

* A.A.S. in ECE students who desire to earn the Illinois Gateways to Opportunity ECE Credential—Level 4 and the Illinois Gateways to Opportunity Infant/Toddler Credential—Level 4 must complete these four courses as electives or be able to document relevant work experience. Upon successful completion of this program, students may complete an application with INCCRRRA/Gateways to Opportunity to receive these credentials. All courses required for a Gateways Credential must be earned with a grade of C or Better. See Department Chair for more details.

CONTACT INFO

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