Early Childhood Education
Career Degree

www.clcillinois.edu/programs/ece

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
(Associate in Applied Science) Plan 25EA

The Associate in 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 in and directors of day care centers, preschools, and school-age programs. Public school Pre-K programs employ A.A.S. degree graduates as assistant teachers. Many of the courses transfer to four year institutions with related programs.

First Semester ............................................ 15
ENG 120 Technical Composition I or
ENG 121 English Composition I.............. 3
PSY 121 Introduction to Psychology ....... 3
ECE 116 Creative Activities............... 3
+ ECE 121 Introduction to Early Childhood Education ............ 3
+ ECE 124 Child Development for Educators............... 3

Second Semester ...................................... 15-16
CMM 121 Fundamentals of Speech......... 3
Humanities 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 117 Creative Activities for Infants and Toddlers........ 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.............. 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 132 Professional Ethics in ECE........ 1
ECE 133 Family Child Care Management.......... 3
ECE 215 Music Activities for Young Children........ 3
ECE 231 School-Age Programming............. 3
ECE 250 ECE Practicum I - Infants and Toddlers* and
ECE 251 Curriculum Development I* .......... 4
ECE 252 ECE Practicum II - Preschool* and
ECE 253 Curriculum Development II* .... 4
ECE 270 Administration of ECE Programs........ 3
ECE 299 Special Topics in Early Childhood Education........ 1-3
EDU 121 Introduction to Teaching............. 3
EDU 222 The Exceptional Child............ 3
EDU 223 Technology in the Classroom , 3
EDU 224 Diversity in Schools and Society........ 3
EDU 225 Educational Psychology.......... 3
EDU 242 Observation/Clinical Experience .......... 1
EDU 299 Special Topics in Education........ 1-3

Total Hours for A.A.S. Degree .................. 60-61

Please see notations on back of sheet.

Typical Jobs
• Teacher
• Preschool Teacher
• Lead Teacher
• Pre-K Teacher
• Group Teacher
• Early Childhood Teacher
• Headstart Teacher
• Toddler Teacher
• Associate Teacher

Salary and Job Outlook
For the latest information, visit www.mynextmove.org or the Bureau of Labor Statistics online at www.bls.gov. Gainful employment data is available at www.clcillinois.edu/gainfulemployment.

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

Getting Started
Visit www.clcillinois.edu/admission for steps on how to register.
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.ilgateways.com/en/gateways-to-opportunity-credentials.

+ ECE 121, ECE 124, ECE 214, ECE 220, ECE 248, ECE 250, ECE 252, EDU 124 and EDU 242 may require daytime field observation and/or experience hours, current Illinois State Police criminal background check, and/or current medical documentation. Check individual catalog descriptions for more information or contact the ECE Department Chair.

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 INCCRRA/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.

ECE 250 and ECE 252 each require 150 hours of classroom work in a NAEYC 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.

Contact Info

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Student Experience

"I love it when the 'light bulb' goes on in children. I want to be the person who shapes little children and provides hope for them and their futures."

- Natosha Freibauer
Early Childhood Education Student

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