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.

Required General Education Coursework ..... 15
ENG 120 Technical Composition I or
ENG 121 English Composition I............. 3
CMM 121 Fundamentals of Speech............ 3
PSY 121 Introduction to Psychology ....... 3
Humanities or Fine Arts Elective ............ 3
BIO 140 Environmental Biology
without Lab or
BIO 149 Genetics and Society or
CHM 140 Chemistry for a Changing World or
GEG 121 Physical Geography or
ESC 123 Introduction to Meteorology or
ESC 124 Oceanography or
ESC 141 Introduction to Astronomy or
ESC 224 Environmental Geology .......... 3

Required Early Childhood Coursework ..... 39
ECE 116 Creative Activities .................. 3
ECE 117 Creative Activities for Infants
and Toddlers ............................. 3
ECE 121+ Introduction to Early
Childhood Education ................. 3
ECE 124+ Child Development for
Educators .............................. 3
ECE 141 Health, Safety & Nutrition .... 3
ECE 214+ Group Care of Infants
and Toddlers .......................... 3
ECE 215 Music Activities
for Young Children ............... 3
ECE 220+ Observation and
Assessment ........................... 3
ECE 223 Child, Family
and Community ..................... 3
ECE 229 Language Development
and Early Literacy ................... 3
ECE 233 Young Children with
Special Needs ......................... 3
ECE 241 Guidance and Social
Development ......................... 3
ECE 242 Math Activities
for Young Children ............... 3

Early Childhood Education Electives ......... 6
Select 6-8 hours from the following:

Students wishing to apply for the Illinois Gateway to Opportunity Level 4 Infant-Toddler and ECE entitled credentials must choose ECE 250, 251, 252 and 253 as electives.

AND
ECE 132 Professional Ethics in ECE ....... 1
ECE 133 Home-Based Child Care
Management .......................... 3
ECE 231 School-Age Programming ....... 3
ECE 250+ ECE Practicum I—
Infants & Toddlers .................. 2

AND
ECE 251 Curriculum Methods—
Infants/Toddlers .................... 2
ECE 252+ ECE Practicum II—
Preschoolers* ...................... 2

AND
ECE 253 Curriculum Methods—
Preschoolers* ...................... 2
ECE 270 Organization and
Administration of Early
Childhood Programs ................. 3
ECE 299 Special Topics in Early
Childhood Education ................ 1

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 and Clinical
Experience .......................... 1
EDU 299 Special Topics in Education .. 1

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

Please see notations on back of sheet.

Typical Jobs
• Teacher
• Preschool Teacher
• Lead Teacher
• Pre-K Teacher
• Group Teacher
• Early Childhood Teacher
• Head Start 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.
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).

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.ilgateways.com/en/gateways-to-opportunity-credentials.

* 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. Upon successful completion of this program, students may complete an application with INCCRRAGateways to Opportunity to receive these credentials. See Department Chair for more details.

+ ECE 121, ECE 124, ECE 214, ECE 220, ECE 250, ECE 252 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.

Transfer
Credits from CLC’s Early Childhood Education CAREER Program transfer toward a bachelor’s degree. CLC has agreements with the following institutions:
- Kendall College (University Center)
- National Louis University
- Northern Illinois University
- Roosevelt University

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.”
- Natosh Freibauer
  Early Childhood Education Student

Contact Info
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