Early Childhood Development and Care A.A.S.

Education & Human Services

CAREER DEGREE | MIDDLETOWN CAMPUS

Program Description

The Associate in Applied Science degree program in Early Childhood Development and Care prepares students for employment in positions ranging from teaching assistant to head teacher in an early childhood setting. (Note: In order to be a Universal Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, a four-year degree is required. Please see an Education Department advisor to determine the appropriate transfer degree program.) This program introduces and reinforces theories of childhood development, caring for and educating young children in developmentally appropriate ways, and the operation and management of early childhood settings.

The Early Childhood Development and Care program focuses on developing critical thinking skills that promote the use of applied knowledge in both the college classroom and in early childhood settings. While engaged in this program, students will have the opportunity to apply education principles, receive individual guidance and feedback, and develop the personal and practical skills needed to care for and educate young children. Students will participate in a variety of field experiences in local area early childhood centers, ranging from observation to full participation in planning and implementation of learning experiences. Upon completion of coursework, students will have accumulated nearly 250 hours of field experience.

A grade of C or better is required in all EDU courses for progression in the program and graduation with an A.A.S. or Certificate in Early Childhood Development and Care.

Program Outcomes

Students will:

- demonstrate a firm foundation of knowledge in child development
- understand essential concepts of developmentally appropriate practices in teaching young children
- understand and value the importance of children's diverse families and communities, and how to use that knowledge to foster respectful, reciprocal relationships with children and their families
- understand the goals, benefits, and uses of assessment, and be able to effectively use developmentally appropriate observation and assessment practices
- design, implement and evaluate developmentally appropriate curriculum and environments for young children
- understand and uphold ethical standards and other professional guidelines in the field of early childhood, and engage in, practice that is both collaborative and reflective in college classrooms and through extensive field assignments
- demonstrate college level proficiency in written and oral communication, critical thinking, and analytical, mathematical, and scientific reasoning

Admission Criteria

Admission to this program requires that students be high school graduates or have high school equivalency diplomas (HSEs). If students are home schooled, they may be eligible for admission.

Transfer Options

While the A.A.S. degree leads to immediate employment, SUNY Orange students have successfully transferred. Please check with your intended transfer school for details.

Your Career Coach

Career opportunities exist in the following fields:

- center director
- head teacher (non-public settings)
- teacher assistant
- family child care provider
- early childhood business owner
- nanny or au pair
- early intervention specialist
- recreation leadership
- home visitor
- childcare resource and referral
- curriculum consultant

Explore careers with Career Coach

SUNY Orange

Early Childhood Development and Care (A.A.S.) Gateway Courses:

- Gateway courses: EDU 101, EDU 105
- Key courses: EDU 101, EDU 105, EDU 107, EDU 109, EDU 111, EDU 201, EDU 202, EDU 203, EDU 204, EDU 206, EDU 208

Courses above have been recommended by the department to help introduce you to the program (Gateway courses) and guide you in selecting courses that will provide you with the best academic experience (Key courses and suggested Electives).

First Semester

Course #	Course Name	P, C, P/C	Cr
ENG 101	Freshman English 1 (G10A [w] & G11A)	P	3
EDU 105	Preparing to Teach Young Children		2
EDU 101	Child Development +		3
PSY 111	Introduction to Psychology (G3A)		3
PES 100	Concepts of Physical Wellness		1
_____	Category E Social Science Elective (G6A)		3
	Total Semester Credits		15

Milestones

During this semester, students should:

- Attend your first Future Teachers Association meeting, and consider joining this student club
- See Education Department faculty member for progress “check-in”
- See advisor and register for classes

Second Semester

Course #	Course Name	P, C, P/C	Cr
ENG 102	Freshman English 2 (G7A and G12A)	P	3
EDU 111	Childhood Health and Safety		3
MAT ___	SUNY Mathematics * (G1A)		3
EDU 109	Language and Literacy Development in the Young Child	P	3
PES ____	Physical Education		1
_____	SUNY Natural Sciences (G2A)		3
	Total Semester Credits		16

Milestones

During this semester, students should:

- Check department bulletin board for information regarding attending an early childhood conference
- Consider completing Early Childhood AAS degree program

Third Semester

Course #	Course Name	P, C, P/C	Cr
EDU 107	Protecting Children’s Well-Being		1
COM 101	Foundations of Communication (G10A [o] and G11A)		3
EDU 203	Child Care Curriculum Development/Field Experience 1 +@	P, P/C	5
EDU 201	Observation and Assessment +!	P!	3
_____	Restricted SUNY Elective **		3
	Total Semester Credits		15

Milestones

During this semester, students should:

- Begin to gather materials for professional teaching portfolio

Fourth Semester

Course #	Course Name	P, C, P/C	Cr
PED 156	Infant and Child First Aid and CPR		1
EDU 202	Infant and Toddler Development and Curriculum + %		3
EDU 204	Child Care Curriculum Development/Field Experience 2 + %	P	5
EDU 206	Administration and Management of Child Care Centers %		3
EDU 208	Home, School, Community %	P	3

Course #	Course Name	P, C, P/C	Cr
	Total Semester Credits		15

Milestones

During this semester, students should:

- Apply for graduation

TOTAL DEGREE CREDITS: 61

Notes:

+Local daytime observations beyond college classroom required.

*MAT 102 or higher (MAT 111 recommended)

%Offered Spring semester only

@Offered Fall semester only

!Prerequisite clarification for Early Childhood Development and Care A.A.S. majors: PSY 111 and EDU 101

**Select one from four different SUNY lists: G4A (SUNY US History & Gov), G5A (SUNY World History), G8A (SUNY Arts) or G9A (SUNY World Languages)