

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree

90-97 credits

DEGREE AS AWARDED ON TRANSCRIPT

Associate of Applied Science, Early Childhood Education

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

At COCC, the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program provides students who have an interest in early childhood, including the early primary elementary years, with a foundation in the theoretical, social, historical and legal aspects of early childhood programming. The COCC associate degree programs in early childhood education provide the foundational knowledge, field experiences and common skills and strategies to prepare students for multiple roles within the field of early childhood education. While the program prepares students for direct work with young children in classroom and educational settings, many associate degree-seeking students have additional professional goals (many requiring further education) including but not limited to:

- Early childhood educator roles such as an infant/toddler, preschool/pre-kindergarten, or K-3 grade classroom teacher, family child care provider, Head Start teacher, or paraprofessional in public schools, early interventionist;
- Home-family support roles such as family advocate, child protective services worker, or parent educator; or
- Professional support roles such as early childhood administrator in a child care or Head Start program, staff trainer, peer/program mentor, or advocate at the community, state or national level.

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree 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 work as a paraprofessional in the public schools.

COST OF PROGRAM

In addition to standard tuition, student fees and textbooks, students should anticipate the following program costs: background check (\$3-\$70), as well as cost of mileage to and from field placement/practicum sites.

PROGRAM PREPARATION AND PREREQUISITES

The ECE program requires a background check through the Oregon Employment Office-Child Care Division. Some field placement sites may require documentation of current immunizations.

MINIMUM GPA OR GRADE REQUIREMENTS

All courses must be completed with a "C" grade or better and graduates must have an overall 2.0 GPA or higher.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

It is recommended (but not required) that students take ED 140 before other Early Childhood Education courses.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

In addition to COCC policies, including students' rights and responsibilities, described in this catalog and detailed in the ECE syllabi, students in COCC's ECE program are expected to follow the policies specific to courses:

- Complete and pass a criminal background check;
- 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 COCC Early Childhood Student Handbook (cocc.edu/early-childhood-education) for an explanation of each of the above policies.

TRANSFER INFORMATION

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

The 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, visit sou.edu and search "COCC" to access the articulation agreement.

PROGRAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

SUPPORT COURSES

Communication

WR 121	Academic Composition	4
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Mathematics

MTH 060	Algebra I	4
(or higher)		

Health

HHP 252A	Fitness/First Aid	3-4
or HHP activity courses (1 credit each) are not to be duplicated		

Human Relations

Human Relations approved course	3
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CORE REQUIREMENTS

ED 140	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	4
ED 150	Environments and Curriculum in ECE	4
ED 151	Observation and Guidance in ECE 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	Multicultural Issues in Education Settings in Early Childhood Education	3
ED 250	Advanced Curriculum Development and Teaching Methods in ECE	4
ED 261/262	Practicum I and II	6
ED 265	Children at Risk	3
ED 269	Exceptional Children in Early Childhood Education	3

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OTHER REQUIRED COURSES

Discipline Studies courses	7 (minimum)
CIS 120 Computer Concepts or Computer Competency Test	0-4
ENG 221 Introduction to Children's Literature or ED 112 Children's Literature & Curriculum	3-4
FN 225 Human Nutrition	4
PSY 201 Mind and Brain	4
PSY 215 Developmental Psychology	4
SOC 201 Introduction to Sociology	4
WR 122 Argument, Research and Multimodal Composition or WR 227 Technical Writing	4
Choose one of the following:	3-4
ED 216 Purpose Structure & Function of Education in a Democracy or ED 176 Supporting Social, Emotional and Mental Health in Early Childhood Education	
or ED 235 Teaching and Learning in a Digital Age	
or ED 253 Learning Across the Lifespan	
or ED 290 English Language Development in the Primary Classroom	
or GEOG 272 Geography for Teachers	
or LIB 127 Information Research Skills	

