

Early Childhood Education, Diploma

School of Art, Humanities, Social Sciences and Public Service

This program reflects the standards established by the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) for students in the field of early childhood education (ECE). The program provides an introduction to working in childcare settings with children from infancy through nine years while developing dispositions that center equity and critical educational practices. Developmentally appropriate practices, cultural responsiveness, and inclusiveness are emphasized as skills necessary for effective graduates. Supervised field experience is required and can be completed at approved early childcare sites. Credits earned in this program can be applied toward the requirements of the AA and AAS degrees. This program is available in online and lecture formats.

Career Opportunities

Program completers will be eligible for entry-level positions in ECE and are prepared to enter the early childhood workforce on Level A of OCDEL'S Career Pathway. Graduates are qualified for positions as: support staff, teaching staff with support in birth to pre-k settings, and out-of-school care.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this program, students will be able to:

- NAEYC 1: Promote child development and learning in context
- NAEYC 2: Build family and community partnerships and relationships
- NAEYC 3: Observe, document, and assess effectively
- NAEYC 4: Use developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate teaching practices
- NAEYC 5: Identify knowledge and apply and integrate academic content in early childhood curriculum.
- NAEYC 6: Act as an ethical and professional early childhood practitioner.

Program Requirements

Students are required to complete all clearances and requirements per field experience sites.

This program is eligible for funding through the Early Care and Education PDO at PASSHE scholarship, PA TEACH scholarship, and Rising Stars Tuition Assistance Program.

Sugg. Term	Seq #	Course ID	Course Title	Cr.	Term Offered	Prereq(s)	Options Available
1st Fall	1	PDV 101	First Year Seminar	1	F, Sp, Su		
	2	ECE 157	Child Growth & Development	3	F, Sp, Su		
	3	ECE 155	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3	F, Sp, Su		
	4	ECE 166	Early Childhood Language and Literacy	3	F, Sp		
	5	ENG 161	College Writing	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 085 or Placement	
	6	MTH 180	Elements of Mathematics I	3	F	MTH 052, 052A or Placement	
1st Spring	7	ECE 156	Infant & Toddler Development	3	F, Sp, Su		
	8	ECE 283	Infant & Toddler Practicum	1	F, Sp, Su	Co-requisites ECE 156	
	9	ECE 255	Early Childhood Education Curriculum	3	F, Sp		
	10	ECE 167	Creative Experiences	3	F, Sp		
	11	ECE 165	Family & Society	3	F, Sp		
	12	ECE 257	Introduction to Exceptional Development	3	F, Sp		
	13	ECE 256	Assessment & Observation of Young Children	3	F, Sp, Su		

Total Program Credits

35