

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TRANSFER PATHWAY

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE (AS) - 60 CREDITS

About this program

This program includes coursework in child development for ages birth through 8, behavior guidance, children with special needs, development of environments and curriculum for infant/toddler, preschool- and primary school-age children, as well as on-site experiences in a variety of programs. Graduates will independently provide a healthy, safe and developmentally appropriate learning environment in support of families. Child development courses in combination with general education courses comprise the 60-credit degree program for students. The program meets the educational requirements for assistant teacher and paraprofessional in an educational setting as well as assistant teacher and teacher in a child care setting and/or family child care provider, and group family child care provider (based on program) as listed in Minnesota Department of Human Services Rule Numbers 9502 and 9503. Work experience, in addition to educational coursework, is required by Rule 3 for teacher positions in licensed child care facilities. Individuals with any prior record of child maltreatment or crime of violence will not be allowed to participate in lab or field experience coursework.

Program outcomes

1. Create developmentally appropriate learning experiences for children.
2. Demonstrate professional behaviors consistent with the child care professional code of ethics.
3. Apply appropriate guidance strategies for children based on knowledge of developmental stages.
4. Understand nutrition requirements for a child care program.
5. Communicate effectively with parents and coworkers.
6. Demonstrate knowledge in the care of and planning for children with special needs.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of typical and atypical development of children ages birth through 8.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of physical, emotional and safety issues.

Curriculum overview

Crds	Requirement type
60	Required courses
60	Total

Developmental courses note: A student may be required to enroll in developmental courses in reading, writing and math. A student's scores on the Accuplacer assessment will determine enrollment in developmental courses. The purpose of developmental courses is to prepare students for the demands of a college-level curriculum. *Credits may vary.*

Accreditation: Minnesota State Community and Technical College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The Higher Learning Commission 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500 Chicago, IL 60604-1411 <http://www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org> Phone: 312.263.0456 / 800.621.7440

Curriculum requirement details

Required courses

Course	Crds
BIOL1104 - Biology of Human Concerns	3
COMM1120 - Introduction to Public Speaking	3
ECE1105 - Introduction to Early Childhood Education ...	3
ECE1107 - Child Growth and Development	3
ECE1109 - Health, Wellness and Nutrition	3
ECE1111 - Diverse Children and Family Relations	3
ECE1113 - Behavior Guidance	3
ECE1115 - Creative Activities and Environment	3
ECE2101 - Observation and Assessment	3
ECE2103 - Introduction to Special Education	3
ECE2105 - Internship	3
ECE2107 - Introduction to Language and Literacy	3
ENGL1101 - College Writing	3
ENGL2239 - Nature Writers	3
ENGL2372 - Children's Literature	3
MATH1100 - World of Math	3
PSYC1101 - Human Interaction	3
PSYC1202 - Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders	3
PSYC2222 - Lifespan Development	3
SOC2213 - Sociology of the Family	3

Other requirements or restricted electives

Course summaries

BIOL1104 - Biology of Human Concerns (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Areas 2 and 3. This course explores issues related to human biology with reference to genetics, nutrition, health, disease or other contemporary issues. Elements of molecular, cell and organismal biology are introduced as needed to understand the topics studied. This course is intended for non-science majors and consists of lecture and laboratory components.

COMM1120 - Introduction to Public Speaking (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Area 1. This course clarifies the process of oral communication, clarifies the basic principles of public speaking and allows the student to increase the application of these principles while both speaking and listening.

Prerequisites:

- Assessment into ENGL 1101

ECE1105 - Introduction to Early Childhood Education (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the early childhood profession through exploring and examining aspects such as historical roots of the profession, theory, program types for children birth through age 8, career opportunities, personal characteristics of professionals, developmentally appropriate practice and ethics.

ECE1107 - Child Growth and Development (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the developmental stages of children ages prenatal through 8 including physical, social, emotional, language, cognitive and creative development. While studying the integration of theory and developmentally appropriate best practice, students will observe children and analyze characteristics of development at various stages. Attention will be focused on theory, developmentally appropriate, best practice and environmental factors that may affect development.

ECE1109 - Health, Wellness and Nutrition (3 credits)

This course will guide students in understanding the teacher strategies and skills needed to establish and maintain a physically and psychologically safe, healthy learning environment for young children ages birth through 8. Topics include preventing illness and accidents, handling emergencies, providing health, safety and nutrition educational experiences within the daily routine, meeting children's basic nutritional needs, child abuse and neglect, childhood stress, trauma and current health, safety and nutrition-related issues.

ECE1111 - Diverse Children and Family Relations (3 credits)

This course covers the relationship between the caregiver/teacher, child, family and community. Students will explore teaching and environmental strategies that promote understanding and support diverse cultural and family structures. Students will examine cultural diversity/dynamics, bias, sensitivity, theory and the importance of the context of family, culture and society as they relate to learning and child development.

Prerequisites:

- ECE1105
- ECE1107
- ECE1109

ECE1113 - Behavior Guidance (3 credits)

This course provides an examination of the physical and social environments that promote learning and development for young children. It includes an introduction to basic child guidance techniques for individual and group situations. Emphasis is on exploring, observing and practicing problem prevention and positive child guidance strategies through coursework and a lab experience. This course contains an off-site lab experience that will assist in guiding students to obtain the skills necessary to become successful professionals within early childhood settings. All students will be required to obtain and pass a Minnesota background check prior to completing 30 hours at an approved lab site.

Prerequisites:

- ECE1105
- ECE1107
- ECE1109

ECE1115 - Creative Activities and Environment (3 credits)
 This course provides an overview of developmentally appropriate learning experiences in home, center-based and school settings. Students integrate knowledge of developmental needs, environments and teaching strategies to enhance all areas of a child's emerging development throughout the curriculum.

Prerequisites:

- ECE1105
- ECE1107
- ECE1109

ECE2101 - Observation and Assessment (3 credits)
 This course provides the student with an opportunity to observe, assess, record, interpret and develop plans to strengthen the development of children. Students will study then carry out numerous informal and formal methods of observing and assessing children and will construct a child study based on assessments gathered throughout the semester.

Prerequisites:

- ECE1111
- ECE1113
- ECE1115

ECE2103 - Introduction to Special Education (3 credits)
 Students will examine strategies that support inclusive programs for children and families along with legal and ethical requirements, eligibility and qualification for services, including but not limited to American Disabilities Act and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, typical and atypical development. Strategies to adapt curriculum to meet the needs of children with developmental differences and cultivate partnerships with families will also be explored.

Prerequisites:

- ECE1111
- ECE1113
- ECE1115

ECE2105 - Internship (3 credits)
 This course provides an opportunity to apply knowledge and skills in an actual child development setting. Students will observe and assess children's behavior, facilitate free choice play, implement adult-directed learning experiences and maintain professional relationships. This course can be taken only after students have completed the first three semesters of the program or with instructor approval.

Prerequisites:

- ECE2101
- ECE2103

ECE2107 - Introduction to Language and Literacy (3 credits)
 This course provides an overview of language and literacy development for children birth to age 8. Students will research, evaluate, plan and design developmentally appropriate language and literacy-rich experiences for children. Students also will learn teaching strategies utilized to promote literacy development within the program/school setting and home.

Prerequisites:

- ECE2101
- ECE2103

ENGL1101 - College Writing (3 credits)
 Meets MnTC Goal Area 1. This is an introductory writing course designed to prepare students for later college and career writing. The course focuses on developing fluency through a process approach, with particular emphasis on revision. Students will consider purpose and audience, read and discuss writing and further develop their own writing processes through successive revisions to produce polished drafts. Course work will include an introduction to argumentative writing, writing from academic sources and a short research project.

Prerequisites:

- Completion of ELL1080, ENGL0096, or ENGL0097 with a grade of C or higher OR placement into college-level English.

ENGL2239 - Nature Writers (3 credits)

This course meets MnTC Goal Areas 2, 6 and 10. This course will focus on texts written by great nature writers. While special emphasis will be placed on those works that stress conservation and ecology, others will enable students to see the human struggle with the environment as protagonist. Material may also include travel writing, as well as the more recent directions toward urban nature and nontraditional/multicultural perspectives. Texts may include nonfiction, novels, poetry and plays. Students will gain experience in reading critically and writing logical, sound papers that deal with environmental issues and text analysis.

Prerequisites:

- ENGL1101

ENGL2372 - Children's Literature (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Areas 2, 6 and 7. This course introduces students to children's literature. Students read and respond to diverse, traditional and contemporary texts. Emphasis is placed on reading, analyzing, interpreting and evaluating children's literature from various contextual frameworks, such as the development of the genre, cognitive development, censorship and depictions of family, race and gender.

Prerequisites:

- ENGL1101

MATH1100 - World of Math (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Areas 2 and 4. This course introduces mathematical approaches to question asking, understanding, problem solving and presentation. Students will apply mathematical principles to varied disciplines including an exploration of a variety of social and global issues. Students will experience mathematics as a creative and evolving discipline. Practice in these areas may include problems involving sequences, methods of counting, probability, logic, statistics, finance, general problem solving and other topics. This course is not intended to prepare students for any subsequent course. It provides an alternative pathway to completing a college-level liberal arts mathematics course and is not intended for science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) students.

Prerequisites:

- Placement Exam

OR

- MATH1020

PSYC1101 - Human Interaction (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Areas 2 and 5. This is an introductory course emphasizing practical applications of psycho-social concepts, with specific emphasis on personality development, human relations and motivation. This course is applicable for students in occupational and health-related fields or general education.

PSYC1202 - Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Area 5. This is a comprehensive introductory course to autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Students will gain a general understanding of the history, etiology, characteristics and assessment of ASD. This course will highlight current research regarding neurodevelopmental issues in autism, the diagnostic criteria used to identify children with ASD, and collaborative and interdisciplinary models of service delivery that ensure family-centered and culturally-competent approaches to assessment and intervention.

PSYC2222 - Lifespan Development (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Areas 5 and 9. This course is a study of human development from the lifespan perspective, including theories, stages and influences of development. The course views the individual from conception to death through physical, cognitive, social and emotional development.

SOC2213 - Sociology of the Family (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Areas 5 and 7. Families will be examined from the sociological perspective and will be compared across time and cultures. Family relationships, family structure and the effects of race, class, gender, age, social institutions and social policy will be explored in this course. Integral to this course are comprehensive discussions on topics such as dating, cohabitation, marriage/partnering, employment, domestic violence, parenting, divorce, remarriage/re-partnering and elder care. This course provides understanding of the family, family roles and the impact on the individual. Understanding public and private, platonic and intimate relationships can assist in the development of tolerance toward others.

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Program Plan — "Early Childhood and Education"

Locations: Fergus Falls

1st Fall Term (15 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
ECE1105 - Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3
ECE1107 - Child Growth and Development	3
ECE1109 - Health, Wellness and Nutrition	3
ENGL1101 - College Writing	3
PSYC2222 - Lifespan Development	3

1st Spring Term (15 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
ECE1111 - Diverse Children and Family Relations	3
ECE1113 - Behavior Guidance	3
ECE1115 - Creative Activities and Environment	3
ENGL2372 - Children's Literature	3
SOC2213 - Sociology of the Family	3

2nd Fall Term (15 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
ECE2101 - Observation and Assessment	3
ECE2103 - Introduction to Special Education	3
ENGL2239 - Nature Writers	3
MATH1100 - World of Math	3
PSYC1202 - Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders ..	3

2nd Spring Term (15 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
BIOL1104 - Biology of Human Concerns	3
COMM1120 - Introduction to Public Speaking	3
ECE2105 - Internship	3
ECE2107 - Introduction to Language and Literacy	3
PSYC1101 - Human Interaction	3