EARLY CHILDHOOD
CERTIFICATE – 18 CREDITS

About this program

This certificate program includes coursework in child development (birth through age 8), behavior guidance, development of environments and curriculum for young children, and relationships with families, as well as on-site experiences in a variety of programs.

Program outcomes

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

Curriculum overview

Crds	Requirement type
18	Required courses
18	**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

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Curriculum requirement details

Required courses

Course	Crds
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
ED2204 - Introduction to Education	3

Other requirements or restricted electives

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Course summaries

ECE1107 - Child Growth and Development ..... ***(3 credits)***
This course provides an overview of the developmental stages of children from conception through age 18, including physical, social, emotional, language, cognitive and creative development. While studying the integration of theory and developmentally appropriate best practices, students observe children and analyze characteristics of development at various stages. Attention is focused on theory, developmentally appropriate practice and environmental factors that may affect development.

ECE1109 - Health, Wellness and Nutrition ..... ***(3 credits)***
This course guides students in understanding the teacher strategies and skills needed to establish and maintain a physically and psychologically safe, healthy learning environment for young children from birth through age 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 relationships between a caregiver/teacher, child, family and community. Students explore teaching and environmental strategies that promote understanding and support diverse cultural and family structures. Students 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.

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 assists in guiding students to obtain the skills necessary to become successful professionals within early childhood settings. All students are required to obtain and pass a Minnesota background check prior to completing 30 hours at an approved lab site.

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.

ED2204 - Introduction to Education ..... ***(3 credits)***
This course explores education in America, from early childhood through high school graduation. The course introduces historical and philosophical foundations, program types, career opportunities or developmentally appropriate learning environments, social contexts, curriculum and instruction, standards and assessment, and contemporary issues related to the field. The roles, responsibilities, personal and ethical characteristics and daily life of teachers, schools and students are examined. The course includes 32 hours of experience in the field.

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Program Plan — "Early Childhood Certificate"

Locations: Fergus Falls

1st Fall Term (9 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
ECE1107 - Child Growth and Development	3
ECE1109 - Health, Wellness and Nutrition	3
ED2204 - Introduction to Education	3

1st Spring Term (9 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
ECE1111 - Diverse Children and Family Relations	3
ECE1113 - Behavior Guidance	3
ECE1115 - Creative Activities and Environment	3

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