

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, covering behavior guidance, children with special needs, and 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 are prepared to independently provide a healthy, safe and developmentally appropriate learning environment in support of families. Child development courses, in combination with general education courses, comprise this 60-credit degree program. The program meets educational requirements for assistant teachers and paraprofessionals in an educational setting, assistant teachers and teachers in a child care and/or family child care provider setting, as well as for group family child care providers (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 violent crime 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
45	Required courses
3	Restricted electives in courses
6	Restricted electives in MnTC Goal Areas
6	Restricted electives in course types
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
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
ECE2102 - Observation and Assessment	3
ECE2103 - Children with Exceptionalities	3
ECE2105 - Internship	3
ECE2107 - Introduction to Language and Literacy	3
ED2204 - Introduction to Education	3
ENGL1101 - College Writing	3
ENGL2372 - Children's Literature	3
PSYC2222 - Lifespan Development	3
SOC2213 - Sociology of the Family	3

Other requirements or restricted electives

3 credits from one or more of these Courses:

Course title	Credits
COMM1120 - Introduction to Public Speaking...	3
COMM1130 - Small Group Communication	3
COMM1140 - Interpersonal Communication	3

3 credits from these Goal Areas:

- 4. Mathematics/Logical Reasoning

3 credits from these Goal Areas:

- 7A. Human Diversity

6 credits from these Course Types:

- General Education w/MnTC Goals

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.

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 observe children and analyze characteristics of development at various stages. Attention is focused on theory, developmentally appropriate, best 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.

ECE2102 - Observation and Assessment (3 credits)

This course provides students with opportunities to observe, assess, record, interpret and develop plans to strengthen the development of children. Students study and carry out numerous informal and formal methods of observing and assessing children and then construct a child study based on assessments gathered throughout the semester.

Prerequisites:

- This course should be taken at the end of the Early Childhood Education sequence when students are also completing the ECE 2105 Internship.

ECE2103 - Children with Exceptionalities (3 credits)

Students in this course examine strategies that support inclusive programs for children and families. The course addresses legal and ethical requirements, including eligibility and qualification for services. Topics include the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and both typical and atypical development. Students also explore methods for adapting curriculum to meet the needs of children with developmental differences and strategies for cultivating partnerships with families.

ECE2105 - Internship (3 credits)

This course provides an opportunity to apply knowledge and skills in an actual child development setting. Students 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.

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 research, evaluate, plan and design developmentally appropriate language and literacy-rich experiences for children. Students also learn teaching strategies utilized to promote literacy development within the program/school setting and home.

ED2204 - Introduction to Education (3 credits)
 This course explores education in America, from early childhood through high school graduation. The course introduces the 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.

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. Coursework will include an introduction to argumentative writing, writing from academic sources and a short research project.

Prerequisites:

- Completion of ELL1085, ENGL0096, or ENGL0097 with a grade of C or higher OR placement into college-level English.

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

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.

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.

COMM1130 - Small Group Communication (3 credits)
 Meets MnTC Goal Areas 1 and 2. This course focuses on communication issues in small groups and the importance of small group work in business today. An emphasis will be placed on improving communication skills for successful teamwork, group cohesiveness and the responsibility to group goals and tasks. Students will be provided with opportunities to build their group communication skills through practice.

COMM1140 - Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)
 Meets MnTC Goal Area 1. This course will focus on improving students' abilities to communicate effectively in one-to-one dyadic encounters by providing experience-based instruction. Extensive in-class and out-of-class analyses allow the student to examine his/her own and others' informal social interactions. The long-term goal is for the student to apply interpersonal communication theories to daily interactions and draw his/her own conclusions about the effectiveness of interpersonal communication.

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Program Plan — "Early Childhood and Education"

Locations: Fergus Falls

1st Fall Term (15 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
ECE1107 - Child Growth and Development	3
ECE1109 - Health, Wellness and Nutrition	3
ED2204 - Introduction to Education	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
ECE2103 - Children with Exceptionalities	3
ECE2107 - Introduction to Language and Literacy	3

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 4. Mathematics/Logical Reasoning

6 credits in one or more of the following:

General Education w/MnTC Goals

2nd Spring Term (15 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
BIOL1104 - Biology of Human Concerns	3
ECE2102 - Observation and Assessment	3
ECE2105 - Internship	3

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 7A. Human Diversity

3 credits in one or more of the following:

COMM1120 - Introduction to Public Speaking 3
 COMM1130 - Small Group Communication 3
 COMM1140 - Interpersonal Communication 3