

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (PREK-4TH GRADE), ASSOCIATE IN ARTS (ECED)

Effective: Fall 2025

The Early Childhood Education (Prek-4th grade) program of study prepares students to work with young children in a variety of early care and education settings including early learning centers, Head Start, PreK Counts, public and private elementary schools. Graduates will be able to provide high-quality educational environments with a focus on the play continuum and the value of play as an essential element of a child's development. They will gain the necessary knowledge and skills to provide a developmentally effective, culturally responsive and inclusive early learning experience that is grounded in active and hands-on play, that is child-led, meaningful and relevant to the child's daily experience.

At the completion of this degree, students are prepared to enter the early learning workforce in early learning centers, young school age childcare, Head Start, nursery schools and as paraprofessionals in public and private elementary schools. This program of study also serves as the transfer pathway to earn teacher certification, Pre-kindergarten through 4th grade. Students wishing to earn teacher certification must transfer to a 4 year institution to earn a Bachelor's degree, Prekindergarten through 4th grade.

Notes:

It is advised to meet with an academic advisor when choosing courses in this program to ensure appropriate sequencing as well as a transfer advisor in the first semester if considering transferring to a 4 year institution.

All students must obtain and keep current background clearances including FBI, Pa Criminal, Pa Child Abuse and the National Sex Offender Registry. There are additional fees to obtain these clearances. Clearances are valid for 3 years as long as the student is continuously enrolled. Please note that the results of the background clearances may impact the student's ability to continue in the field of early childhood education.

The Early Childhood Education (Prek-4th grade) degree is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young children. "The mission of the accreditation system is to set a standard of excellence for early childhood degree programs and to recognize programs that have demonstrated they meet this standard, thereby benefiting the early childhood profession, young children, families and communities." (NAEYC, 2023)

All students will be required to have Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance, Pennsylvania Criminal Clearance, FBI clearance and documentation of current immunizations and TB screening. The results of the background clearances could have an impact on the student's ability to continue in the degree. There are additional fees to obtaining clearances and students may have to get their clearances renewed.

Program Outcomes

- Promote child development and learning. (NAEYC Standard 1)
- Develop strategies for building family and community relationships. (NAEYC Standard 2)
- Observe, document and assess to support young children and families. (NAEYC Standard 3)
- Use developmentally effective approaches for teaching and learning. (NAEYC Standard 4)
- Use content knowledge to build meaningful curriculum. (NAEYC Standard 5)
- Act as an early childhood education professional. (NAEYC Standard 6)

Full-Time Academic Plan

The College Transfer Office (<https://www.dccc.edu/admissions-financial-aid/transfer/transfer-office>) is set up to help Delaware County Community College students transfer to four-year colleges and universities. If you are planning to transfer, you are strongly encouraged to meet with a transfer advisor within your first two semesters (or before you reach 30 transferable college credits from all institutions attended).

First Semester		Hours
ENG 100	English Composition I ^{CR, IL, WC}	3
ECE 100	Principles of Early Childhood Education	3
ECE 112	Developing a Professional Portfolio and Resource File for ECE	1
ECE 130	Early Childhood Development	3
COMM 100 or COMM 111	Interpersonal Communication ^{OC} or Public Speaking	3
CS 100 or EDU 206	Introduction to Information Technology ^{TC} or Teaching with Technology	3
Hours		16
Second Semester		Hours
ENG 112	English Composition II: Writing About Literature ^{CR, IL, WC}	3
ECE 140	Integrated Curriculum and Assessment	3
SOC/PSY Elective		3
Science Elective: Any transferable Scientific Inquiry designated BIO, CHE, ESS or PHY course ^{SI}		4
HIS 110 or HIS 120	American History I ^{CR, DJ, GU} or American History II	3
Hours		16
Third Semester		Hours
ECE 110	Infant/Toddler Care and Education	3
ECE 111	Methods and Materials for Teaching	3
ECE 120 or EDU 215	Early Childhood Education Laboratory I or Primary Grade Lab and Seminar	4
ECE 202 or EDU 220	Including All Children or Introduction to Inclusive Education K-12	3
MAT 125	Mathematics for Teachers of Children I ^{QR}	3
Hours		16
Fourth Semester		Hours
ECE 201	Children Families and Community	3
ECE 121	Early Childhood Education Laboratory II	4
EDU 208	English Language Learners	3
MAT 126	Mathematics for Teachers of Children II	3
ENG 250	Children's Literature	3
Hours		16
Total Hours		64

Notes

Scientific Inquiry designated courses (https://catalog.dccc.edu/academic-programs/college-academic-learning-goals/#SR_Course_List).

Any transferable Scientific Inquiry designated BIO, CHE, ESS or PHY course

Part-Time Academic Plan

Course	Title	Hours
First Semester		
ENG 100	English Composition I	3
ECE 100	Principles of Early Childhood Education	3
ECE 112	Professionalism in Early Childhood Education	1
Hours		7
Second Semester		
ECE 130	Early Childhood Development	3
HIS 110 or HIS 120	American History I or American History II	3
COMM 100 or COMM 111	Interpersonal Communication or Public Speaking	3
Hours		9
Third Semester		
ENG 112	English Composition II: Writing About Literature	3
ECE 140	Integrated Curriculum and Assessment	3
ECE 120 or EDU 215	Early Childhood Education Laboratory I or Primary Grade Lab and Seminar	4
Hours		10
Fourth Semester		
SOC/PSY Elective		3
Science Elective: Any transferable Scientific Inquiry designated BIO, CHE, ESS or PHY course		4
EDU 220	Introduction to Inclusive Education K-12	3
Hours		10
Fifth Semester		
ECE 110	Infant/Toddler Care and Education	3
ECE 111	Methods and Materials for Teaching	3
MAT 125	Mathematics for Teachers of Children I	3
Hours		9
Sixth Semester		
ENG 250	Children's Literature	3
ECE 201	Children Families and Community	3
ECE 121	Early Childhood Education Laboratory II	4
Hours		10
Seventh Semester		
EDU 208	English Language Learners	3
MAT 126	Mathematics for Teachers of Children II	3
Humanities/BCSS/Laboratory Science Elective (ENG, COMM, DPR, HUM, POL, ART, MUS, DRA, PHI, SOC, SPA, SWO or Laboratory Science)		3-4
Hours		9-10
Total Hours		64-65

Scientific Inquiry designated courses (https://catalog.dccc.edu/academic-programs/college-academic-learning-goals/#SR_Course_List).

Any transferable Scientific Inquiry designated BIO, CHE, ESS or PHY course

Campus Locations

DELAWARE COUNTY

Marple
Southeast Center

CHESTER COUNTY
Pennocks Bridge

ONLINE*
100% online

Early Childhood Education, AA coursework is offered 100% online*.

* Some online courses have **field requirements** or **in-person or proctored testing**. Online courses with these requirements have additional information posted under the **COURSE DESCRIPTION** section when you are registering. Please note these requirements when registering.

Accreditation

The Early Childhood Education program at Delaware County Community College is accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Early Childhood Higher Education Programs of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, www.naeyc.org (<http://www.naeyc.org>). The accreditation term runs from March, 2017 through March, 2024.

Student Outcomes:

Number of Program Completers¹

Year/Term	Description	Outcome1	Outcome2
2016-2017	# of Program Completers	50 Students	
2016-2017	% of Program Completers	46% Full-Time	54% Part-Time
2017-2018	# of Program Completers	44 Students	
2017-2018	% of Program Completers	52% Full-Time	48% Part-Time
2018-2019	# of Program Completers	58 Students	
2018-2019	% of Program Completers	40% Full-Time	60% Part-Time
2019-2020	# of Program Completers	56 Students	
2019-2020	% of Program Completers	37% Full-Time	63% Part-Time

Program Completion Rate²

Year/Term	Description	Outcome1	Outcome2
2013	% of Completers within 3-4 Years	20.8% 3 YR	25.0% 4 YR
2014	% of Completers within 3-4 Years	15.6% 3 YR	22.2% 4 YR
2015	% of Completers within 3-4 Years	19.5% 3 YR	25.9% 4 YR
2016	% of Completers within 3-4 Years	21.9% 3 YR	28.1% 4 YR

¹ Number(#) and Percentage(%) of program completers who were attending part-time or full-time, by Academic Year of completion.

² Percentage (%) of students who completed within 3 years, 4 years, by the Academic Year in which a Fall cohort of full-time students enrolled at the institution.

Career