

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION-CT

Program Overview

Certificate of Achievement - Early Childhood Education

Program Mission

The mission of the GBC early childhood program is to provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to work effectively and professionally with young children, their families, and their communities.

Successful completion of the early childhood education certificate and degrees is designed to qualify students for such employment opportunities as paraprofessionals, teachers, and/or directors in childcare centers, preschools, and home-based programs.

Student Learning Outcomes

Standard #1: Child Development and Learning in Context

Outcome: Students will identify and describe key developmental milestones and learning processes in children from birth through age five, focusing on major developmental domains.

Standard #2: Family-Teacher Partnerships and Community Connections

Outcome: Students will recognize the importance of family-teacher partnerships and demonstrate basic strategies for effective communication and collaboration with families.

Standard #3: Child Observation, Documentation, and Assessment

Outcome: Students will conduct basic observations and use simple documentation techniques to assess children's development and learning, informing instructional planning.

Standard #4: Developmentally, Culturally, and Linguistically Appropriate Teaching Practices

Outcome: Students will apply fundamental teaching practices that are developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate for young children.

Standard #5: Knowledge, Application, and Integration of Academic Content in the Early Childhood Curriculum

Outcome: Students will implement basic pedagogical methods for teaching early childhood disciplines, ensuring activities are developmentally appropriate.

Standard #6: Professionalism as an Early Childhood Educator

Outcome: Students will understand and apply ethical guidelines and professional standards in early childhood education, advocating for young children and their families.

General Education Requirements

English/Communications (one course required)

ENG 100 Composition-Enhanced 5 Credits

Allows students to fulfill their first semester of English while completing the remediation process. Designed for students who did not place into ENG 101 on the placement test/writing sample, but did not score so low that they need ENG 95. Allows a student to refine specific skill deficiencies while completing the first semester of freshman composition (ENG 100 is equivalent to ENG 101). Students will have additional Academic Success Center requirements. Although it is a five-credit course, it does not replace ENG 102. After successful completion of ENG 100, a student must take ENG 102 to complete the general education requirement.

ENG 101 Composition I 3 Credits

Critical reading and writing of the expository essay. Emphasizes pre-writing, strategies for organization, and revision.

Mathematics (one course required): Choose from the courses listed below or any higher-level math course.

MATH 116 Technical Mathematics I 3 Credits

Provides technical mathematical core material so that the student gains practical problem solving experience. May include arithmetic operation, integers, exponents, scientific notation, algebraic expressions, equations, metric system, trigonometry, and logarithms. This course satisfies the general education requirement for occupational/technical AAS degree. It is recommended that students have completed prerequisites within two years of enrolling in this course.

MATH 116E Technical Mathematics Expanded 3-5 Credits

Provides technical mathematical core material so that the student gains practical problem solving experience. May include arithmetic operation, integers, exponents, scientific notation, algebraic expressions, equations, metric system, trigonometry, and logarithms. This course satisfies the general education requirement for occupational/technical AAS degree.

MATH 120 Fund of College Math 3 Credits

Includes set theory, logic, consumer mathematics, measurement, geometry, probability, and statistics. Course is broad in scope, emphasizing applications. It is recommended that students have completed prerequisites within two years of enrolling in this course.

MATH 120E Fund of College Math Expanded 3 Credits
 Fundamentals of College Mathematics with Corequisite Support: Includes real numbers, consumer mathematics, variation, functions, relations, graphs, geometry, probability, and statistics. Course is broad in scope, emphasizing applications. Fulfills the lower-division mathematics requirement for a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Satisfies mathematics requirement for baccalaureate degrees.

MATH 126 Precalculus I 3 Credits
 A third course in algebra that stresses polynomial, quadratic, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions, including their graphs and applications; complex numbers; systems of equations; and basic operations with matrices and determinants, including Cramer's rule. It is recommended that students have completed prerequisites within two years of enrolling in this course.

MATH 126E Precalculus I Expanded 3 Credits
 Precalculus I Expanded with Co-requisite support: Includes equations, relations, functions, graphing; polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and circular functions with applications; coordinate geometry of lines and conics; analytic trigonometry; matrices and determinants; and binomial theorem. It is recommended that students have completed prerequisites within two years of enrolling in this course.

Human Relations (required)
PSY 208 Psy of Human Relations 3 Credits
 Explores the relationships between human beings and assists in the development of interpersonal communication skills which can be used personally and professionally.

Technology (required)
EDU 214 Prep Teachers to Use Tech 3 Credits
 Lab course on advanced skills and strategies for integrating technology into the K-12 classroom. Computer experience is required in word processing, basic spreadsheet design, and file management.

Program Requirements

ECE 200 The Exceptional Child 3 Credits
 This course focuses on the characteristics, training, and educational needs of children with disabilities including children who are gifted. It explores the existing educational agencies, programs, and instructional methods designed for children with disabilities.

ECE 204 Principles Child Guidance 3 Credits
 A study of effective communication with children in guiding behavior. Emphasis will be placed on techniques which help children build positive self-concepts and individual strengths within the context of appropriate limits and discipline. The study includes uses of direct and indirect guidance techniques as well as introduction to guidance systems.

ECE 231 Practicum:Early Child Lab 6 Credits
 Working in a preschool setting with young children under the supervision of a master teacher, planning and implementing activities. Practicum will normally be taken during the final year of the child development program. Law requires a TB test prior to enrollment.

ECE 250 Intro Early Childhood Edu 3 Credits
 Introduces students to early childhood education. Course deals with the total preschool program including types, objectives, philosophy, curriculum, physical plant, and equipment, as these aspects of the program relate to the needs and interests of the preschool child.

ECE 251 Curriculum Early Child Edu 3 Credits
 This course will consist of methods of planning and teaching curriculum for children three to five years old. Included will be curriculum development, children's play, lesson planning, and daily scheduling. Emphasis on art, science, literature, music, language, blocks, dramatic play, etc.

ECE 262 Early Lang/Litrcy Develop 3 Credits
 Course focuses on the four areas of Language Arts: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Through a hands-on and interactive approach, students will explore the process of combining quality practices with specific materials and strategies focused on language and literacy development. In addition, students will examine the fundamentals of oral language and literacy-rich environments supported by the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that are predictive of later success in learning to read and write.

Suggested Course Sequence

1st Semester - Fall

Course Credits ECE 204 3 ECE 250 3 ENGLISH* 3-5 EDU 214 3 MATH* 3 TOTAL 15-17 *Choose with Advisor

2nd Semester - Spring

Course Credits PSY 208 3 ECE 200 3 ECE 251 3 ECE 231 6 ECE 262 3 TOTAL 18