



A Course of Study for
Online
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Department Certificate Program
(formerly Child Development)

Early Childhood Education majors will be trained to supervise and provide care and learning experiences for infant through eight-year-old children in a variety of early childhood settings. Early Childhood Education professionals adhere to the guidelines as well as the Professional Code of Ethics of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) providing developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for the enhancement of the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and creative domains of young children.

The Early Childhood Education major focuses on educational practices that emphasize interpersonal relationships, cultural diversity, child-centered curriculum and the inclusion of children with special needs in all educational opportunities.

The Early Childhood Education Program major follows a natural progression that allows students to move from short to long-term educational goals: preparation for the state Children's Center Permit, fulfillment of post-certificate Professional Development, completion of advanced California Career Ladder courses (including paired specialization courses as well as the California State Mentor course), completion of an Associate of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education, Associate in Arts in Early Childhood Intervention Assistant, Associate in Arts in Early Childhood Intervention Teacher, and transfer to a four-year institution.

Possible Early Childhood Education career goals include Early Childhood Education Teacher, Early Education Director, Early Childhood Intervention Assistant, Early Childhood Intervention Teacher, Family Home Child Care Provider, Private ECE Center Owner/Director, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, K through 12 Teacher, K through 12 Special Education Teacher, Parent Educator, Early Childhood Education Instructor, Marriage Family and Child Counselor.

The Early Childhood Intervention programs will prepare students for career placements in public and/or private early intervention and educational settings that serve typically and atypically developing young children. Specific jobs and responsibilities may include serving as an early childhood educator with a specialization in working with children with special needs, special education assistant for children birth to eight years of age, a one-to-one aide for a child (e.g., "inclusion facilitator"), classroom aide with expertise in special needs, or as an assistant to the early intervention team for infants birth to three years of age.

Program Learning Outcomes: Students completing a degree or certificate in Early Childhood Education will know the essential concepts, inquiry tools and structure of the content areas in children's learning and will identify appropriate resources. Students prepared in the education training programs will design developmentally effective approaches and design experiences that promote learning for children while integrating their understanding of relationships with children and families.

DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATE

Catalog rights dictate that a student may satisfy the requirements of a degree or certificate by completing the general education and major/area of emphasis requirements in effect at any time of their continuous enrollment. Continuous enrollment is defined as enrollment in consecutive Fall and Spring semesters until completion.

At least 50% of the units required for Department Certificates must be completed at Santa Monica College.

Students must receive a grade of C or higher in each course to successfully complete the Department Certificate.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CORE (12 units)

A Department Certificate for Early Childhood Education Core is granted upon completion of 12 units listed below.

This Department Certificate mirrors the courses required to obtain the Associate Teacher Permit according to the Child Development Permit Matrix issued by the California Commission of Teaching Credentialing. The 12 core units are needed for employment in a California Community Care Licensed program.

Students that desire to work in a early childhood setting are required to minimally complete these core classes.

Required Courses: (9 units)

Early Childhood Education 2, Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children (3)

Early Childhood Education 11, Child, Family and Community (3)

Psychology 11, Child Growth and Development (3)

Select one additional course from the following: (3 units)

Early Childhood Education 4, Language and Literature for the Young Child (3)

Early Childhood Education 5, Math and Science for the Young Child (3)

Early Childhood Education 8, Creative Experiences – Art, Music and Movement (3)

Early Childhood Education 17, Introduction to Curriculum (3)