

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND FAMILY STUDIES - ONE YEAR CERTIFICATE

Overview

See Department website and program contacts here

The **Early Childhood Education and Family Studies certificate** is designed for students seeking careers working with young children and families in early learning settings. The curriculum combines foundational child development knowledge with practical teaching and family support skills to prepare students for employment in a variety of early childhood environments.

Coursework and practicum experiences focus on **child growth and development, positive guidance, high-quality interactions, curriculum planning, and supporting development for children from birth through age five**. Students develop practical skills through classroom learning and supervised field experiences.

The program is workforce-focused and prepares students for roles in early learning programs, childcare settings, family support environments, and related educational settings. Students interested in additional education and training may also continue into advanced coursework or degree programs in early childhood education.

Students should be prepared to demonstrate the professionalism, communication skills, emotional stability, and stamina needed for work in this field. Students are encouraged to work with an advisor (<https://www.mhcc.edu/student-resources/academic-advising/>) regarding program planning and practicum placement requirements.

Refer to the tabs above for additional information about:

- **Education Plan** – provides a sample term-by-term sequence of courses
- **Career Info** – includes information on potential occupations, employment trends, and earnings

Program Learning Objectives

At the completion of this program, students should know how to:

- Design learning environments to support children's development and learning in all domains
- Implement Developmentally Appropriate Practices and all relevant guidelines
- Articulate the importance of effective observation, documentation, and assessment of children's development
- Develop positive relationships with families, colleagues and community members
- Apply content knowledge and inquiry tools to construct meaningful curriculum
- Demonstrate an exemplary work ethic and uphold the standards of the early childhood profession

Education Plan

This sample Education Plan illustrates one possible course sequence. Students should consult an advisor (<https://www.mhcc.edu/student-resources/academic-advising/>) to create a personalized plan.

General education courses (such as math, writing, health, etc.) can be taken during any term, or before starting the program.

Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher in all program (ECE) courses.

First Quarter

Fall		Credits
ECE125	The Early Childhood Professional	3
ECE140	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3
ECE158	Learning Environments	3
ECE170	Health, Safety and Nutrition	3
WR121Z	Composition I	4
Credits		16

Second Quarter

Winter		Credits
ECE144	Observation Techniques	2
ECE145	Positive Guidance	3
ECE147	Infant/Toddler Caregiving	3
ECE166	Seminar - Beginning	1
MTH065 or MTH058	Beginning Algebra II (or higher) or Quantitative Reasoning I	4-6
WE280CDC1	Co-op Education - Beginning - Early Childhood Education 1	3
Credits		16-18

Third Quarter

Spring		Credits
ECE135	Math Concepts in Early Childhood	3
ECE171	Families and Diversity	3
ECE173	Creative Art Experiences	3
Choose 4 credits from the following options:		4

For students who do **not** already have First Aid and/or Pediatric CPR certification:

HE252 First Aid: Responding to Emergencies
& HE261 and CPR - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

OR For students **with** current First Aid and Pediatric CPR certification:

Choose Human Relations course(s) to reach 45 certificate credits (<https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#human>)

Credits	13
Total Credits	45-47

Career Information

Explore potential careers related to this program, including typical job roles, employment trends, and projected growth. This information can help you better understand how your education may align with future career opportunities.