

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (A.A.) +

In the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, you will develop knowledge, skills, and experience to help you work effectively with young children (aged birth to eight) and families. These skills are based on industry standards and professional competencies in child development, family and community, teaching and learning, health and safety, professionalism, and program organization. Elective credits in the program provide flexibility to delve more deeply in to topics to support your career goals. Students in the Early Childhood Education degree program may choose to pursue related certificates in Afterschool & Youth Work, Childcare, and Early Childhood Education Administrator.

All associate degrees include completion of general education requirements which, together with program requirements, constitute a minimum of 60 credits. In some cases program requirements also fulfill general education requirements. You may not use a single course to meet two general education requirements.

## General Education

Complete at least one course in each of the following:

- First Semester Seminar  
INT 1050 - Dimensions of Self & Society
- Introductory Written Expression – VSCS  
ENG 1061 - English Composition
- Digital and Computing Literacy – VSCS  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Mathematics - VSCS  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Natural Science - VSCS \_\_\_\_\_
- Social Science - VSCS  
PSY 2010 - Child Development  
or  
PSY 2020 - Infant & Toddler Development
- Arts & Aesthetics - VSCS \_\_\_\_\_
- Humanistic Perspectives - VSCS  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Communication  
Meets graduation standard in oral communication  
COM 1015 - Communication in the Early Childhood Education & Afterschool Workplace
- Research & Writing Intensive  
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- HUM 2010 - Seminar in Educational Inquiry  
Meets graduation standard in writing and information literacy

*\*You may use a course to meet both a program requirement and a general education requirement; however, you may not use a single course to meet two general education requirements.*

## Program Requirements

Courses are listed in the order in which we recommend you take them.

- EDU 1030 - Introduction to Early Childhood Education
- PSY 2010 - Child Development \* and  
Choose 6 credits in EDU, PSY, and/or SOC  
or  
PSY 2020 - Infant & Toddler Development \*  
and  
PSY 2025 - Development of the Young Child: Ages 3-8  
and  
Choose 3 credits in EDU, PSY, or SOC
- COM 1015 - Communication in the Early Childhood Education & Afterschool Workplace\*
- EDU 1270 - Supporting Young Children with Diverse Abilities
- EDU 2045 - Curriculum Development for Early Childhood Education
- INT 2860 - Professional Field Experience

Electives: 9 credits

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### Note(s)

\*You may use a course to meet both a program requirement and a general education requirement; however, you may not use a single course to meet two general education requirements.

**Minimum Total Credits in Degree: 60**

*+ This program can be completed fully online.*

## **Program Outcomes**

### **Graduates of the Early Childhood Education program will be able to:**

- practice and model effective communication, observation strategies, and partnerships with children and their families;
- apply developmentally appropriate and professionally accepted practices used in childcare or school settings which promote inclusion of children with diverse abilities;
- employ strategies to maintain a safe, healthy, and nurturing learning environment in childcare and school settings;
- exhibit professional conduct in an early childhood education or school setting including legal and ethical responsibilities, roles, and boundaries;
- demonstrate academic skills required of all CCV graduates, including competency in writing, information literacy, oral communication, and quantitative reasoning; and
- explore pathways and demonstrate preparedness for educational and career development in the student's field of study.

### **The Early Childhood Education program is great for you if:**

- you currently work or have experience working with children;
- you are interested in the development of children;
- you enjoy interpersonal communication and working with a wide variety of people;
- you care about making a difference for children and families in your community;
- you want to gain theoretical background and practical experience in the field of education and early education; and
- you are willing to maintain state childcare licensing requirements, pursue continuing education classes, or earn industry recognized certificates.

### **Key information and advice for students in the Early Childhood Education program:**

- The ECE associate degree integrates with the requirements for Vermont's Early Childhood Career Ladder – Level IIIB. Coursework in the degree also supports the Program Director for Early Childhood and Afterschool Programs credential, and Vermont's Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship program.
- The Childcare certificate is designed to fit inside the ECE degree, providing a stepping-stone to greater training and compensation. The Childcare certificate aligns with Vermont's Early Childhood Career Ladder - Level IIIA.
- Courses required for the Afterschool & Youth Work and Early Childhood Education Administrator certificates can be applied to the ECE degree.
- Professional Field Experience (PFE) gives students practical experience in the workplace and can be a connection to employment in the early childhood education field.
- Background checks are common in early childhood and afterschool fields. Those with prior justice system involvement are encouraged to research employment exclusions that may arise depending on role, employer, and/or licensing criteria.
- Students interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree in early childhood or elementary education are encouraged to identify transfer options early to optimize course choices.

### **The Early Childhood Education program prepares you for careers such as:**

- Registered Home Childcare Provider
- Associate Teacher in licensed childcare program
- Paraprofessional or Teaching Assistant
- Staff in afterschool program
- Head Start Home Visitor or Teacher (bachelor's degree may be required)
- Elementary Education Teacher with Pre-K Endorsement (bachelor's degree required)

For up-to-date Vermont labor market information, including salary information and growth projections, view the Economic and Labor Market Information on the Vermont Department of Labor Website <http://www.vtlmi.info/>.