

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 the five areas of professional competency in Vermont: child development, family and community, teaching and learning, health and safety, professionalism and program organization.

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 Requirements

Core Competencies

Complete at least one course in each of the following:

- First semester seminar _____
INT 1050 - Dimensions of Self & Society
- Technological Literacy _____
- Communication
COM 1015 - Communication in the Early Childhood Education & Afterschool Workplace
or
COM 1020 - Interpersonal & Small Group Communication
Meets graduation standard in oral communication
- English Composition
ENG 1061 - English Composition
- Mathematics _____
- Research & Writing Intensive _____

Areas of Inquiry

Complete at least one course in each of the following:

- Scientific Method _____
- Human Behavior
PSY 2010 - Child Development
or
PSY 2020 - Infant & Toddler Development
- Human Expression _____

Integrative Approaches

- Global Perspectives & Sustainability _____
- Seminar in Educational Inquiry
HUM 2010 - Seminar in Educational Inquiry
Meets graduation standard in writing and information literacy
- Quantitative Reasoning Assessment
Meets graduation standard in quantitative reasoning

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 any 3-credit EDU, PSY, or SOC course **
or
PSY 2020 - Infant & Toddler Development * and
PSY 2025 - Development of the Young Child: Ages 3-8
- COM 1015 - Communication in the Early Childhood Education & Afterschool Workplace*
or
COM 1020 - Interpersonal & Small Group Communication *
- EDU 1270 - Introduction to Early Intervention
- EDU 2045 - Curriculum Development for Early Childhood Education
- EDU 2042 - Early Childhood Education & Afterschool Program Management
- INT 2860 - Professional Field Experience

Electives: 9 credits

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.

** Choose courses based on five areas of professional competency for early childhood educators in Vermont including: Child Development, Family & Community, Teaching & Learning, Health & Safety, and Professionalism & Program Organization.

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 special needs or different learning styles;
- 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 a working knowledge of leadership, administrative, and sound business practices in the childcare industry;
- demonstrate academic skills required of all CCV graduates, including competency in writing, information literacy, oral communication, and quantitative reasoning; and
- explore pathways 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 from VT Northern Lights Career Development Center.

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 the Vermont Child Care Apprenticeship program. Students working in regulated childcare may be eligible for a Recognition Bonus from the Child Development Division upon completion of each of these credentials or successful completion of college credits.
- 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.
- Professional Field Experience - (PFE) gives students practical experience in the workplace and can be a connection to employment in the early childhood education field.
- 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 degree may be required)
- Elementary School Teacher (bachelor degree required)

Job outlook in Early Childhood Education in the state of Vermont:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Median Salary</i>	<i>Projected Growth (10 Yrs)</i>
Childcare Worker	\$21,000	5%
Paraprofessional or Teaching Assistant	\$24,400	8%
Preschool Teacher	\$29,000	9%
Elementary School Teacher (bachelor's)	\$51,000	8%

Source: Vermont Department of Labor, <http://www.vtmi.info/oic.cfm>