



# Early Childhood Education



## What is the Early Childhood Education Program?

The Early Childhood Education Program prepares individuals to work in various capacities with children from infancy through age nine. General responsibilities include the planning and assessment of developmentally appropriate activities, designing appropriate learning environments, and differentiating instruction, based on each individual's needs.

Individuals who excel in this program are patient, creative, and compassionate and have a love for children and teaching.

## What does it mean to be an early childhood educator?

As an early childhood educator, you'll find the excitement and rewards that come from working with children from birth to age nine whose enthusiasm and spontaneity fill every day with surprises. If you've ever experienced the joy as a child takes his first steps or the satisfaction of seeing a child's eyes light up when she sees a rainbow for the first time, then you've had a taste of the fun you'll have as an early childhood educator.

Early childhood educators often work within a day care facility or in an early childhood classroom under the general supervision of a lead teacher or director. You may also choose to transfer to a four-year institution where you would earn your bachelor of science degree. This would lead you to a career as a certified early

childhood or elementary school teacher in the public school system.

## Why choose early childhood education?

Never has there been a better time to pursue a career in education. The need for highly skilled and competent teachers and education paraprofessionals continues to grow each year. In the Early Childhood Education Program, students have the option of only taking the few classes needed to meet the educational requirements for "preschool teacher" as defined by the Maryland State Department of Education Office of Child Care or pursuing a higher level of certification. HCC offers students the practical courses and field work they need to gain experience and valuable credentials. Students are encouraged to join the ranks of astronaut Christa McAuliffe and others who have proudly stated, "I touch the future, I teach."

## What is the employment outlook?

The need for early childhood paraprofessionals and professionals in the United States has been projected to increase by seven percent between 2016 and 2026. With the passage of legislation mandating universal preschool by the Maryland State Assembly, employment opportunities for this age group may rise even more dramatically at the local level. Several career options exist for those interested in working with children from infancy to age nine (source: [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)).

## What are the average earnings?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median hourly wage of childcare workers was \$10.72 in May 2017, with the top 10 percent earning more than \$15.76 per hour.

Individuals who have more advanced credentials will earn significantly more. Preschool teachers with associate degrees are projected to grow 10% from 2016 to 2026. The median annual salary in May 2017 was \$28,990, with the top 10 percent earning more than \$54,780.

## Why should I choose HCC?

- HCC's Early Childhood Education Program is an established program that is taught by professional educators
- Options are available within the program to help students meet their professional goals
- Tuition at HCC is reasonable and grants and payment plans are available to assist students with financial challenges

- The majority of credits within the program are transferable to four-year institutions should students decide to continue their education after completing their coursework at HCC.

Important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended this program can be viewed at [http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/gedp/cer\\_ccp/19.0708-Gedt.html](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/gedp/cer_ccp/19.0708-Gedt.html)

## What funding resources are available to students?

HCC and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) are offering a unique funding opportunity for childcare providers to earn an associate's degree (A.A.S. or A.A.T.) in early childhood education, A.A.T. in elementary education, or an A.S. in education. The Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF) provides funding for college tuition, fees and books for eligible child care providers, working in the State of Maryland. You must have worked in an approved childcare setting for at least one year and currently hold a credential certificate from the Office of Child Care.

HCC accepts approved applicants for the CCCPDF for the fall semester only. The deadline to apply is March 1 of each year. For more information, contact Alison Hess, project manager, at 240-500-2604 or email [amhess@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:amhess@hagerstowncc.edu).

## Letter of Recognition Child Care Professional

This sequence of courses prepares individuals to work in Maryland child care centers. The Child Care Professional Letter of Recognition meets the educational requirements for "preschool teacher" as defined by the Maryland State Department of Education Office of Child Care. Individuals may select coursework to qualify them to work with children ages birth through six (EDU 116) or ages two through nine (EDU 117).

Program Requirements		9 credits
EDU 114	The Developing Child.....	3
EDU 115	Methods and Materials in Early Childhood Education .....	3
EDU 116	Infant and Toddler Development.....	3
<b>OR</b>		
EDU 117	School Age Child Care Seminar I.....	3
<b>Letter of Recognition .....</b>		<b>9</b>

Certificate

# Child Care Professional

This program leads to a Child Care Professional Certificate which meets the training requirements for Level 4 of the new Maryland Child Care Credential System (birth to grade 3).

**Program Requirements 21 credits**

EDU 103	Foundations of Early Childhood Education.....	3
EDU 114	The Developing Child.....	3
EDU 115	Methods and Materials in Early Childhood Education.....	3
EDU 116	Infant & Toddler Development.....	3
EDU 117	School Age Child Care Seminar I.....	3
EDU 211	Introduction to Special Education.....	3
ENG 101	English Composition.....	3

**Restricted Electives 7 credits**

Select 7 credits from the following list:

ART 102	Two-Dimensional Design.....	3
EDU 212	Processes and Acquisition of Reading....	3
EDU 269	Internship I.....	1-3
<i>*EDU 269 is strongly recommended to all qualified students</i>		
ENG 104	Children's Literature.....	3
HEA 105	First Aid.....	3
MUS 205	Music Skills for the Classroom Teacher.....	3
PED 215	Early Childhood Physical Activities.....	3

**Certificate Requirement .....28**

A.A.S. Degree

## Early Childhood and Primary Grades Education

The Associate of Applied Science degree career program in Early Childhood and Primary Grades Education prepares individuals to work as lead teachers and directors of child care centers and preschools or to assist teachers in the instructional process in Pre-K through Grade 3 in public schools. While many of the early childhood courses transfer to four-year institutions, the primary purpose of the A.A.S. degree is to prepare students for immediate employment in a variety of child care settings.

**General Education Requirements 21-23 credits Arts/Humanities**

Select one course from the approved General Education course list.....3

**Behavioral/Social Sciences**

PSY 101 General Psychology.....3

**Biological/Physical Science**

Select one course from the approved General Education course list.....3-4

**Diversity**

Select one course from the approved General Education course list.....3

**English**

ENG 101	English Composition.....	3
<i>(ELL 101 English Composition for English Language Learners is an approved substitution for ENG 101)</i>		
<i>*A minimum grade of "C" or better is required for ENG-101 and ELL-101</i>		
ENG 102	Composition and Literature.....	3

**Mathematics**

Select one course from the approved General Education course list.....3-4

**Program Requirements 33 credits**

EDU 103	Foundations of Early Childhood Education.....	3
EDU 114	The Developing Child.....	3
EDU 115	Methods and Materials in Early Childhood Education.....	3
EDU 117	School Age Child Care Seminar I.....	3
EDU 211	Introduction to Special Education.....	3
EDU 212	Processes and Acquisition of Reading....	3
EDU 215	Child Care Center Administration and Management.....	3
ENG 104	Children's Literature.....	3
MUS 205	Music Skills for the Classroom Teacher.....	3
PED 215	Early Childhood Physical Activities.....	3
PSY 203	Educational Psychology.....	3

**Free Electives 4-6 credits**

Electives should be selected in consultation with an advisor to satisfy career goals or a transfer college curriculum. Some suggested courses are listed below.

**Internship I is strongly recommended for all qualified students.**

EDU 116	Infant and Toddler Development.....	(3)
EDU 269	Internship I.....	(1-3)
ENG 214	Applied English Grammar.....	(3)
HEA 105	First Aid.....	(3)
PED 198	Fundamental Fitness and Motor Skills.....	(1)

**Degree Requirements .....60**

A.A.T. Degree

## Early Childhood Education

This degree is designed for those students preparing to transfer to a four-year institution in Maryland to obtain a baccalaureate degree and earn state teacher certification in early childhood education. The program has been articulated with all of the transfer programs in elementary education in the state of Maryland and makes degree holders eligible to transfer to the four-year institution with full junior status. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a total of 45 hours of field experience in a variety of educational settings. Degree students must complete all course work with a grade of "C" or better, obtain a minimum 2.75 GPA, submit a professional portfolio, earn a passing score on a basic skills test of high school level reading, writing, and math (PRAXIS I, SAT, ACT, or GRE).

**General Education Requirements 32 credits Arts/Humanities**

HUM 201 The Arts: A Creative Synthesis.....3

**Behavioral/Social Sciences**

HIS 201 United States History I.....3

OR

HIS 202 United States History II.....(3)

PSY 101 General Psychology.....3

**Biological/Physical Science**

BIO 106 Unity and Diversity of Living Things.....4

PHS 104 General Physical Science.....4

**Diversity**

GEO 105 World Regional Geography.....3

**English**

ENG 101 English Composition.....3

*(ELL 101 English Composition for English Language Learners is an approved substitution for ENG 101)*

*\*A minimum grade of "C" or better is required for ENG-101 and ELL-101*

ENG 102 Composition and Literature.....3

**Mathematics**

MAT 101 College Algebra.....3

MAT 109 Introduction to Statistics.....3

**Program Requirements 28 credits**

EDU 103	Foundations of Early Childhood Education.....	3
EDU 114	The Developing Child.....	3
EDU 115	Methods and Materials in Early Childhood Education.....	3
EDU 211	Introduction to Special Education.....	3
EDU 212	Processes and Acquisition of Reading....	3
MAT 107	Fundamental Concepts of Mathematics I.....	3
MAT 108	Fundamental Concepts of Mathematics II.....	3
PHS 111	Earth and Space Science.....	4
PSY 203	Educational Psychology.....	3

**Degree Requirement.....60**

*\* The Introduction to Special Education course required by Hagerstown Community College is a necessary requirement of the College's A.A.T. Degree in Early Childhood Education, but is not sufficient to meet all special education or inclusion course requirements for four-year teacher education programs. Students may be required to take additional special education or inclusion courses as a part of the requirements for a baccalaureate degree and teacher education certification at four-year institutions.*

*\*\* Students who have been convicted of child abuse, sexual abuse of a minor, or crimes of violence are precluded from employment in the field of teaching. Please discuss concerns with your advisor.*

**Contact Information:**

Mary Beth Chaney  
Assistant Professor,  
Early Childhood Education  
and Reading Instruction  
240-500-2328  
mchaney@hagerstowncc.edu

Jeannine Stonestreet  
Assistant Professor  
Psychology and Elementary Education  
240-500-2258  
jstonestreet@hagerstowncc.edu

Louise Wine  
Professor, Psychology and Education  
Coordinator of Teacher Education  
240-500-2321  
ldwine@hagerstowncc.edu

**Recommended Professional Organizations:**

National Association for the Education of Young Children: [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)