

# 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."



## 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.

## 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 (AAS.ECE or AAT.ECH) in early childhood education, AAT.ELE in elementary education, or an AS.EDU 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.

## PROGRAM OPTIONS

- 📄 Degree, Early Childhood/Primary Grades Education , AAS
- 📄 Degree, Early Childhood Education/ Early Childhood Special Education , AAT
- 📄 Certificate, Childcare Professional
- 📄 Letter of Recognition, Childcare Professional

## CAREER OUTLOOK

MEDIAN SALARY	MEDIAN SALARY
<b>\$27K</b> for childcare workers	<b>\$61K</b> Kindergarten & Elementary School Teachers
EMPLOYMENT	EMPLOYMENT
949,000 jobs in U.S. 6% growth over next ten years	1,487,000 jobs in U.S. 4% growth over next ten years

(source: www.bls.gov/ooh)

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 Samantha Early at 240-500-2706 or email [slearly@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:slearly@hagerstowncc.edu).

Other funding opportunities are available for Future Educators.

## Letter of Recognition Child Care Professional

This sequence of courses prepares individuals to work in Maryland child care centers. After one year of experience, program completers will be considered senior staff. Individuals may select coursework to qualify them to work with children ages birth through six (EDU 116) or ages two through nine (EDU 117). Students must submit a portfolio that meets the standards of the Education faculty before graduation.

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

**Letter of Recognition ..... 9**

Certificate

# Child Care Professional

Students must complete a portfolio that meets the standards of the Education faculty before graduation.

**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
ENG 104	Children's Literature.....	3
ENG 214	Applied English Grammar .....	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/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. Students are required to submit a professional portfolio that meets the standards of the Education faculty prior to graduation.

**General Education Requirements 21-23 credits**

**Arts/Humanities**

Select one course from the approved General Education course list .....	3
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**Behavioral/Social Sciences**

PSY 101 General Psychology .....	3
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**Biological/Physical Science**

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

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

ENG 101 English Composition .....	3
<i>ENG 101E and ENG 101P are approved substitutions for ENG 101. A minimum grade of "C" or better is required.</i>	
ENG 102 Advanced English Composition.....	3

**Mathematics**

MAT 114 Introduction to Applied Algebra.....	3
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**Program Requirements 36 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
EDU 240 Education Capstone Field Experience...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 2-3 credits**

Electives should be selected in consultation with an advisor. Some recommended courses are listed below:

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)
STU 106 Professionalism in the Workspace .....	(1)

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

A.A.T. Degree

## Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Education

The Associate of Arts in Teaching in Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Education 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 (birth to grade 3). 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 that meets the standards of the Education faculty and earn a passing score on a basic skills test of high school level reading, writing, and math (PRAXIS I, SAT, ACT, or GRE), or a 3.0 GPA.

**General Education Requirements 29 credits**

**Arts/Humanities**

HUM 201 The Arts: A Creative Synthesis.....	3
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**Behavioral/Social Sciences**

HIS 201 United States History I .....	3
<b>OR</b>	
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
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**English**

ENG 101 English Composition .....	3
<i>ENG 101E and ENG 101P are approved substitutions for ENG 101. A minimum grade of "C" or better is required.</i>	

**Mathematics**

MAT 109 Statistics .....	3
MAT 160 Precalculus I .....	3

**Program Requirements 31 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	
EDU 240 Education Capstone Field Experience ...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/Early Childhood Special 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:**

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Recommended Professional Organizations:

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

