



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).

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

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.

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
OR	
EDU 117 School Age Child Care Seminar I.....	3

Letter of Recognition 9

