Early Childhood Education

Degree Type
Associate of Arts

Program Description

The education of the young child, birth to age 8, is a rapidly growing field. The students in this degree program develop professional knowledge, skills and abilities needed to successfully work in private or public early childhood educational settings and continue for a baccalaureate degree by transferring to a four-year institution. Our students apply foundational concepts from general education coursework to early childhood practice: learn to self-assess and to advocate for themselves as students and as professionals, strengthen skills in written and verbal communication, learn to identify and use professional resources, and make connections between these "college skills" and lifelong professional practice. These options provide the student with the knowledge to apply general education and early childhood education theory and practice to create effective learning environments and interactions for all children birth through grade 4.

Program Objectives

The program objectives for this degree will follow the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee (TAOC) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards as follows:

1. Standard 1: Promoting Child Development and Learning
2. Standard 2: Building Family and Community Relationships
3. Standard 3: Observing, Documenting and Assessing to Support Young Children and Families
4. Standard 4: Using Developmentally Effective Approaches to Connect with Children and Families
5. Standard 5: Using Content Knowledge to Build Meaningful Curriculum
6. Standard 6: Becoming a Professional

A student should consider these factors before enrolling into this program:

1. This degree program requires that all students obtain a current Pennsylvania Criminal Record Check (Act 34), Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 151), and FBI Clearance (Act 114). Students are REQUIRED to have these clearances submitted to the Registrar's Office by final day of their first semester. Students will not be permitted to register for classes that require these clearances as a course prerequisite without first submitting clearances to the Registrar's Office.
2. A 3.0 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) is required to graduate with this degree.
3. A grade of C or higher is required in order for classes to be eligible for transfer.

This degree follows the curriculum set by the Pennsylvania Department of Education Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee (TAOC) on November 11, 2011, and is transferable to all Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education colleges. However, in planning to transfer, please remember to check with the transfer institution to make sure that you meet all requirements.

Obtaining the Degree

Students must be able to meet all of the following requirements in order to graduate from this program:

- Matriculate into the program.
- A 3.0 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) is required to graduate with this degree.
- Earn a grade of "C" or higher in all required courses.
- Satisfactorily complete all degree requirements, including General Education and Major Requirements of the degree.

General Education Requirements

Course Code	Title	Credits
ECE 105	Education Essentials	1
BIO 104	Principles of Biology I Lecture	3
BIO 114	Principles of Biology I Lab	1
COM 101	Public Speaking	3
ENG 110	English Composition I**	3
ENG 200	English Composition II: Studies in Literature**	3
MAT 126	Elements of Mathematics I	3
MAT 127	Elements of Mathematics II	3
	ART 101 or MUS 100	3
	PSY 100 or ANT 100 or SOC 100	3
	GEO 100 or HIS 100 or HIS 110	3

Major Requirements

Course Code	Title	Credits
ECE 101	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3
ECE 110	Child Development	3
ECE 198	Early Childhood Practicum I	1
ECE 205	Emerging Literacy/Inclusion	3
ECE 211	Teaching Science for Early Childhood	3
ECE 215	Teaching: Integrating Curriculum through Creative Expression	3
ECE 250	Children, Families, and Community	3
ECE 298	Observation and Assessment in Early Childhood	3
EDU 120	Technology for Teaching	3
EDU 230	Children with Special Needs	3
EDU 225	Teaching English Language Learners	3
PSY 120	Introduction to Educational Psychology	3
	Total Credits	63

Course Sequencing

Fall 1

Course Code	Title	Credits
ECE 101	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3
ECE 105	Education Essentials	1
ECE 110	Child Development	3
ENG 110	English Composition I**	3
COM 101	Public Speaking	3
	Elective - History or Geography	3

Spring 1

Course Code	Title	Credits
ECE 211	Teaching Science for Early Childhood	3
ECE 205	Emerging Literacy/Inclusion	3
ECE 198	Early Childhood Practicum I	1
ENG 200	English Composition II: Studies in Literature**	3
	ART 101 or MUS 100	3
PSY 120	Introduction to Educational Psychology	3

Fall 2

Course Code	Title	Credits
BIO 104	Principles of Biology I Lecture	3
BIO 114	Principles of Biology I Lab	1
ECE 215	Teaching: Integrating Curriculum through Creative Expression	3
EDU 120	Technology for Teaching	3
MAT 126	Elements of Mathematics I	3
	PSY 100 or ANT 100 or SOC 100	3

Spring 2

Course Code	Title	Credits
ECE 250	Children, Families, and Community	3
ECE 298	Observation and Assessment in Early Childhood	3
EDU 225	Teaching English Language Learners	3
EDU 230	Children with Special Needs	3
MAT 127	Elements of Mathematics II	3