

Early Childhood Education

WVC prepares students in the early childhood education (ECE) program for careers that focus on young children from birth to five years and their families. This program provides an understanding of a child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. It emphasizes practices that are developmentally appropriate and embrace both family and community.

Early Childhood Education Degrees and Certificates

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- Early Childhood Education
- Bachelor of Applied Science - Teaching
- Early Childhood Education State Initial Certificate
- Early Childhood Education State Short Cert. - Administration
- Early Childhood Education State Short Cert. - Family Child Care
- Early Childhood Education State Short Cert. - General
- Early Childhood Education State Short Cert. - Home Visiting
- Early Childhood Education State Short Cert. - Infants and Toddlers
- Early Childhood Education State Short Cert. - School Age Care
- Early Childhood Education State Certificate
- Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Education Classes

ECED& 105: Introduction to Early Childhood Education

Explore the foundations of early childhood education. Examine theories defining the field, issues and trends, best practices, and program models. Observe children, professionals and programs in action.

Credits 5

Weekly Contact Hours 5

Meets Degree Requirements For
Social Science

ECED& 107: Health, Safety & Nutrition

Introduction to implementation of equitable health, safety and nutrition standards for the growing child in group care. Focus on federal Child Care Block Grant funding (CCDF) requirements, WA State licensing and Head Start Performance standards. Develop skills necessary to keep children healthy & safe, report abuse & neglect, and connect families to community resources.

Credits 5

Weekly Contact Hours 5

Meets Degree Requirements For
Restricted Elective

ECED& 120: Practicum-Nurturing Relationships

In an early learning setting, engage in establishing nurturing, supportive relationships with all children and professional peers. Focus on children's health & safety, promoting growth & development, and creating a culturally responsive environment.

Credits 2

Weekly Contact Hours 6

Meets Degree Requirements For
Restricted Elective

ECED& 132: Infant/Toddler Care

Examine the unique developmental needs of infants and toddlers. Study the role of the caregiver, relationships with families, developmentally appropriate practices, nurturing environments for infants and toddlers, and culturally relevant care.

Credits 3

Weekly Contact Hours 3

Meets Degree Requirements For
Restricted Elective

Prerequisites

[ECED& 105](#) or [EDUC& 115](#)

ECED& 134: Family Childcare Management

Learn how to manage a family childcare program. Topics include: licensing requirements, record-keeping, relationship building, communication strategies, guiding behavior, and promoting growth and development.

Credits 3

Weekly Contact Hours 3

Meets Degree Requirements For
Restricted Elective

ECED& 138: Home Visiting & Family Engagement

Plan and provide home visits and group activities. Promote secure parent-child relationships. Support families to provide high-quality early learning opportunities embedded in everyday routines and experiences.

Credits 3

Weekly Contact Hours 3

Meets Degree Requirements For
Restricted Elective

ECED& 139: Administration of Early Childhood Education

Develop administrative skills required to develop, operate, manage and improve early childhood education and care programs. Acquire basic business management skills. Explore resources and supports for meeting WA State licensing and professional NAEYC standards.

Credits 3

Weekly Contact Hours 3

Meets Degree Requirements For
Restricted Elective

ECED& 160: Curriculum Development

Investigate learning theory, program planning, tools and methods for curriculum development promoting language, fine/gross motor, social-emotional, cognitive and creative skills and growth in children birth through age 8 utilizing developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive practice.

Credits 5

Weekly Contact Hours 5

Meets Degree Requirements For
Restricted Elective

Prerequisites

[ECED& 105](#) and [EDUC& 115](#)

ECED& 170: Learning Environments

This class focuses on the adult's role in designing, evaluating, and improving indoor and outdoor environments that ensure quality learning, nurturing experiences, and optimize the development of young children.

Credits 3

Weekly Contact Hours 3

Meets Degree Requirements For
Restricted Elective

ECED& 180: Language & Literacy

Teaching strategies for language acquisition and literacy skill development are examined at each developmental stage (birth-age 8) through the four interrelated areas of speaking, listening, writing, and reading.

Credits 3

Weekly Contact Hours 3

Meets Degree Requirements For
Restricted Elective

ECED& 190: Observation & Assessment

Collect and record observation and assessment data in order to plan for and support the child, the family, the group, and the community. Practice reflection techniques, summarizing conclusions, and communicating findings.

Credits 3

Weekly Contact Hours 3

Meets Degree Requirements For
Restricted Elective

Prerequisites

[ECED& 105](#) or [EDUC& 115](#)

ECED 133: Field Experience II

Complete 20 hours of field experience in each of the following three approved early childhood education settings: infant/toddler program, preschool program, kindergarten, first, second or third-grade classroom (60 hours total).

Credits 2

Weekly Contact Hours 6

Meets Degree Requirements For

Restricted Elective

Prerequisites

ECED& 105 and ECED& 107 and ECED& 120

ECED 220: STEM In Early Childhood

This course provides knowledge and skills in supporting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in Early Learning environments. Curriculum integration of all four STEM content areas. Methods, assessment, materials, and vocabulary to use in individualized and developmentally appropriate STEM activities and experiences.

Credits 5

Weekly Contact Hours 5

Meets Degree Requirements For

Restricted Elective

Prerequisites

ECED& 105 and EDUC& 115

ECED 221: Visual and Performing Arts for Early Childhood

An exploration of principles, methods, and materials for teaching children music, movement, visual arts, and dramatic play through process-oriented experiences to support divergent thinking. Students will learn theories, techniques, and curriculum design in order to offer a wide variety of developmentally appropriate art media to children and create a comprehensive visual and performing arts curriculum.

Credits 5

Weekly Contact Hours 5

Meets Degree Requirements For

Restricted Elective

Prerequisites

ECED& 105 and EDUC& 115

ECED 290: Practicum/Capstone

Student completes 90 hours of field experience in an approved early childhood setting. Under the direct supervision of a qualified early childhood professional, student takes on the role of lead teacher to demonstrate skills in curriculum planning and implementation, child guidance, environmental design, and communication with families and program staff. Students will participate weekly in online discussion with peers and instructor to discuss practicum experiences. Completion of a professional portfolio.

Credits 4

Weekly Contact Hours 10

Meets Degree Requirements For

Restricted Elective

Prerequisites

ECED& 105, 107, 120, 160, 170, 180, 190, and EDUC& 115, 130, and 150