

Early Childhood Education

Degree: A.A. - Early Childhood Education
A.A. - Liberal Studies for Elementary
Teachers (see Social Science)

Certificates: Infant Specialist
Master Teacher
Site Supervisor
Teacher
School Age Specialist

Area: Health & Education
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Certificates of Completion offered by department:
Associate Teacher
Family Child Care
Family Service

Early Childhood Education is a field that addresses the needs of children from birth through eight years of age, with some services provided in after-school programs for children up through 14 years of age. Early childhood programs provide simultaneously for the education and care of young children. In so doing, they focus on all aspects of development—a child's mind, body, emotional security, and social competence. Early childhood educators work closely with the families of children served in their programs, supporting not only the education of the children, but also the well-being of the children's families. Such programs cover a diverse range of services and have various names—preschool education, child care and development centers, school-age child care, family child care, infant care, foster care, family service, instructional assistance in kindergarten and primary classrooms, children's advocacy, and child care resource and referral.

Career Opportunities

National interest in the education and care of children has made Early Childhood Education a rapidly growing field. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing grants permits to those preparing to teach children younger than five or older children in after-school child care programs. These permits, known as Child Development Permits, authorize service in publicly-funded child care and development programs.

The Early Childhood Education certificates and degree prepare students to work at various levels of the early childhood teaching profession—teacher assistant, teacher, supervisor, and director of child care and development centers; instructional assistant in kindergarten and primary grade classrooms in public schools; and teacher or teacher assistant in private schools. The course work also prepares those who wish to be foster parents and family service workers.

The ARC Program

The course work in the ARC Early Childhood Education department is approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing as meeting the requirements for the California Child Development Permits. Students who complete selected certificates in the ECE program are recommended by the American River College faculty to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for direct issuance of Child Development Permits.

Upon completion of the AA degree, a student will possess the course work required to work as a teacher in both private and public preschool and child care and development programs.

The ARC program offers a sequence of certificates, which guide students in working their way up the career ladder in the field of early childhood education.

- 1) Students who complete the Associate Teacher Certificate, which leads to the Associate Teacher Permit issued by the state of California, are prepared to work as teacher assistants in publicly-funded early childhood education programs and as teachers in many privately-funded early childhood education programs.
- 2) Students who complete the Teacher Certificate, which leads to the Teacher Permit, are prepared to work as teachers in both publicly and privately funded early childhood education programs.
- 3) Those who complete the Master Teacher Certificate, leading to the Master Teacher Permit, are prepared to work as supervising teachers in early childhood classrooms.
- 4) Students who complete two additional courses in administration may apply for the Site Supervisor Certificate, leading to the Site Supervisor Permit, required of those supervising an early childhood education site.

Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education Department is also authorized to recommend students for the entry level permit known as the Assistant Teacher Permit (a 6-unit permit) and for the permit known as the Program Director Permit (requiring a BA degree). This permit is required for those supervising multiple publicly-funded early childhood education sites.

For those students who seek courses which will prepare them to work with a specific age group or program type, the Early Childhood Education program offers five certificates which do not lead to Child Development Permits. These certificates focus on 1) infant care; 2) school-age care; 3) family child care; 4) management; and 5) family service.

Requirements for Degree Major: **32 units**

Core Requirements	Units
ECE 300	3
ECE 312/PSYC 372	3
ECE 314	3
ECE 320	4
ECE 321	4
ECE 331	3
ECE 410	1
ECE 420 or 424	2
ECE 430	3

and 6 units from the following:

ECE 330, 356, 361, 363, 404, 432; ENGLT 370; NUTRI 320/ECE 415; RECR 320; TA 404

Recommended Electives

ART 431; BIOL 305; ECE 420, 422, 424, 498; ENGED 320; HEED 310, 316; FCS 302; MUFHL 330; MUIVI 340/341, 370/371; MUSM 370; NUTRI 300, 310, 330/HM 315; SILA 305, 306; SPAN 351, 352, 361, 362

General Education Graduation Requirements:

Students must also complete the general education graduation requirements for an A.A. degree. See Graduation requirements.

Certificates leading to child development permits

Students who complete the following requirements will, upon verification of required experience, be recommended to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for issuance of Child Development Permits.

Associate Teacher Certificate

Requirements for Certificate: **13 units**

Courses Required:

ECE 300; ECE 312/PSYC 372; ECE 314/FCS 314; ECE 320

Upon completion of this certificate, and with appropriate documented experience, the student meets the minimum requirements for employment as a teacher in privately funded child care programs. This certificate also provides the student with coursework required for the Associate Teacher Permit issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. It is recommended that applicants for this certificate complete ECE 410 and certification in pediatric CPR and pediatric first aid in order to meet state requirements.

Teacher Certificate

Requirements for Certificate: **24 units**

Courses Required:

ECE 300	3
ECE 312/PSYC 372	3
ECE 314/FCS 314	3
ECE 320	4
ECE 321	4
ECE 331 or 356 or 404	3
ECE 410	1
ECE 430	3

Plus 16 units, including one course from each of the following four categories of courses listed under the ARC Graduation Requirements.

1. Math/Science: Any course from area 3A or Area 4C1.
2. English: Any course from Area 3D1.
3. Humanities: Any Area 3B course
4. Social Sciences: Any Area 3C course.

Master Teacher Certificate

Requirements for Certificate: **32 units**

ECE 300	3
ECE 312/Psychology 372	3
ECE 314/FCS	3
ECE 320	4
ECE 321	4
ECE 331 or 356 or 404	3
ECE 410	1
ECE 424	2
ECE 430	3
ECE Specialization Options	6

Plus 16 units, including one course from each of the following four categories of courses listed under the ARC Graduation Requirements.

1. Math/Science: Any course from Area 3A or Area 4C1
2. English: Any course from Area 3D1
3. Humanities: Any area 3B course
4. Social Sciences: Any Area 3C course

Master Teacher Specialization Concentrations

(Courses included in the specialization concentrations may not be used to fulfill other requirements for the Master Teacher Certificate.)

Infant Care **(6 units)**

ECE 330 and 331; or if ECE 331 is used to fulfill other requirements for the Master Teacher Certificate, student may take ECE 330 and 3 units from the following: ECE 334 and/or 498 with placement in an infant center.

Special Needs **(6 units)**

ECE 404 and one of the following:
PET 312; SILA 305, 330, 332; ECE 498, with placement in a classroom for children with special needs.

School-Age Care **(6 units)**

ECE 356 and one of the following:
Recreation 320 or ECE 498 with placement in a school-age child care program.

Art with Children **(6 units)**

ECE 361 and 3 units from the following:
ART 320, 431, 432; ARTH 300

Music with Children (6 units)

ECE 363 and 3 units from one of the following:
MUFHL 330; MUIVI 340, 341, 370, 371; MUSM 370

Drama with Children (6 units)

TA 400, 404, or 406

Children's Literature (6 units)

ENGLT 370, 372, 374, 376

Children's Health, Safety and Nutrition (6 units)

ECE 415 and NUTRI 300

Culture and Diversity (6 units)

ECE 432 and any 3 units from area 3F of the ARC graduation requirements, with the exception of ECE 430

Site Supervisor Certificate

Requirements for Certificate: 38 units

Courses Required

ECE 300	3
ECE 312/PSYC 372	3
ECE 314/FCS 314	3
ECE 320	4
ECE 321	4
ECE 331	3
ECE 410	1
ECE 420	3
ECE 422	3
ECE 424	2
ECE 430	3

Two of the following:

ART 431; ENGLT 370; ECE 356, ECE 415/NUTRI 320; MUSM 370; RECR 320; TA 404

General Education to complete the A.A. degree

The Early Childhood Education Department is also authorized to recommend students to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for the Child Development Assistant Permit and for the Program Director Permit. Students who wish to be recommended for the Child Development Assistant Permit must have completed ECE 312/PSYCH 372, and ECE 300 for a total of six units. Students who wish to be recommended for the Child Development Program Director Permit must verify completion of a BA degree, possess the Child Development Teacher Certificate, and complete ECE 420, 422 and 424. This permit is required for those supervising multiple publicly-funded early childhood education sites.

Certificates not leading to child development permits

The following certificates are designed for students who seek courses which will prepare them to work with a specific age group or program type. These certificates do not lead directly to a Child Development Permit.

The following certificates meet the minimum requirements for teaching in or administering privately-funded preschool and child care and development programs.

Family Child Care Certificate

Requirements for Certificate: 12 units

ECE 305, 401; ECE 312/PSYC 372; ECE 314/FCS 314; ECE 498 with placement in family child care home

Family Service Certificate

Requirements for Certificate: 15 units

Courses Required:

ECE 312/PSYC 372; ECE 314/FCS 314; ECE 430; ECE 440; HSER 300.

Infant Specialist Certificate

Requirements for Certificate: 21 units

Courses Required

ECE 300, 320, 330, 331, 334, 410, ECE 312/PSYC 372; ECE 314/FCS 314

Upon completion of this certificate, and with appropriate documented experience, the student meets the minimum requirements for employment as a teacher in privately funded infant care programs. These minimum requirements are outlined in Title 22 (Department of Social Service) regulations for child care licensing.

School Age Specialist Certificate

Requirements for Certificate: 18-21 units

Courses Required

ECE 300	3
ECE 312/PSYC 372	3
ECE 314/FCS 314	3
ECE 320	4
ECE 321 or 498	1-4
(With placement in a school age child care program) or RECR 320	
ECE 356	3
ECE 410	1

Upon completion of this certificate, and with appropriate documented experience, the student meets the minimum requirements for employment as a teacher in privately funded before and after school child care programs. These requirements are outlined in Title 22 (Department of Social Service) regulations for child care licensing.

ECE 100 Parenting Issues: Preschool 1 Unit

Formerly: ECE 50

Prerequisite: None

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This course is designed for student parents who have children enrolled in the Campus Preschool Center Program and other interested students. The course will focus on relevant parenting issues. This course may be taken four times with no duplication of topics.

ECE 102 Parenting Issues: Infant/Toddler 1 Unit

Formerly: ECE 51

Prerequisite: None

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This class is designed for student parents who have children enrolled in the Infant/Toddler Center and other interested students. The course focuses on current issues of parenting infant/toddlers. This course may be taken four times with no duplication of topics.

ECE 120 Effective Discipline for Foster Parents 1 Unit

Formerly: ECE 54

Prerequisite: None

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This course will provide foster parents knowledge of discipline techniques which are effective in the production of positive behaviors in the children and youth placed in their care. Theories involved in Love and Logic will be presented. This course meets requirements for continuing education for Sacramento County licensed foster parents or kinship care providers.

ECE 122 Competence in Diversity 1 Unit

Formerly: ECE 57

Prerequisite: None

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This course identifies the importance of promoting the self-esteem of foster children through personal history and culture. Techniques for promoting a positive sense of identity will be emphasized. Included will be critical issues that face foster parents and the children they care for in a ploy-ethnic and otherwise diverse community. This course meets requirements for continuing education for Sacramento County licensed foster parents and kinship care providers.

ECE 294 Topics in Early Childhood Education .5-3 Units

Formerly: ECE 52

Prerequisite: None

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 9-54 hours LEC

This course provides opportunity to study current topics in early childhood education which are either, not included in current offerings, or require emphasis beyond that offered in existing courses. The course may be taken four times up to a maximum of 6 units providing there is no duplication of topics.

ECE 300 Introduction to Early Childhood Education 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 1

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to early childhood education, including an overview of the history of the field, current curriculum approaches, and programs serving children from infancy through the school-age years. It reviews the current status of education for young children, with a focus on integrated education. Techniques for observing, documenting, and interpreting the behavior of young children and opportunities to observe in a variety of early childhood education settings will be included.

ECE 305 Introduction to Family Child Care 1 Unit

Formerly: ECE 19

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This course is an orientation to Family Child Care. It includes state and local regulations, issues of health and safety, curriculum, behavior guidance, and business management of child care programs operating in the provider's home.

ECE 312 Child Development (Same as Psychology 372) 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 34

Prerequisite: None

Advisory: ENGWR 102 or ENGWR 103, and ENGRD 116; or ESLR 320 and ESLW 320; or placement through assessment process.

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a study of the growth and development of children from the prenatal stage through adolescence. For each stage of development, students learn about the physical, cognitive, linguistic, social-moral, and emotional aspects of development, with attention to both typical as well as atypical development in each area. Included are the influences of culture, family and the environment. This material is designed as a foundation for careers in childcare, teaching and nursing as well as parenting and preparing general students interested in child development. Not open to students who have completed Psychology 372. (CAN FCS 14) AA/AS area C2; CSU area D3; IGETC area 4

ECE 314 The Child in the Family and Community (Same as Family and Consumer Science 314) 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 35

Prerequisite: None

Advisory: ENGWR 102 or ENGWR 103, and ENGRD 116; or ESLR 320 and ESLW 320; or placement through assessment process.

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course will cover the child within the family and within the community. The focus will be on the impact of parenting style, marriage and transitions within the family, culture, school, and media on the child's development. Students will have an opportunity to research and review the diverse community resources available to support the child and the family. Not open to students who have completed FCS 314. AA/AS area 3C2; CSU area D3

ECE 320 Principles and Practices in Early Childhood Education 4 Units

Formerly: ECE 3

Prerequisite: ECE 300; ECE 312/PSYC 372; current tuberculosis clearance.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 36 hours LEC; 108 hours LAB

This laboratory class provides experience working with children in an early childhood setting under the supervision of a mentor teacher. Lectures cover principles of curriculum development, classroom design, and child guidance. Laboratory provides opportunities for applying these key teaching principles in practical situations.

ECE 321 Advanced Principles and Practices in Early Childhood Education 4 Units

Formerly: ECE 4

Prerequisite: ECE 320, current tuberculosis clearance.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 36 hours LEC; 108 hours LAB

This advanced laboratory class provides experiences in applying principles of overall early childhood curriculum design and effective classroom management. Lecture and laboratory components build on introductory experiences offered in ECE 320 and provide opportunities to plan, provision, and supervise the overall learning setting. Course work is aimed at mastering classroom leadership in the areas of child observation, documentation of children's work, child assessment, guidance of behavior, group management, collaborative teaching, and effective oversight of long-term study projects.

ECE 330 Infant Development 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 7A

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is an examination of the developmental needs of infants, from conception to three years of age, preparing both parents and health, education, and social service professionals with strategies for care that are based on research in infant development. ARC area E2

ECE 331 Education and Care of Infants in Group Settings 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 7B

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course applies current research in infant development to the teaching and care of infants in group settings. Emphasis is on early childhood education principles and practices when applied to the care and education of infants from birth to three years of age. It includes strategies for designing, implementing, and evaluating group care programs for infants.

ECE 334 Laboratory with Infants and Toddlers 1 Unit

Formerly: ECE 7L

Prerequisite: Current tuberculosis clearance.

Corequisite: ECE 330 or 331.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LAB

This class provides experience working with infants and toddlers in a group care program. It is designed as a laboratory for those who have completed or are enrolled in Early Childhood Education 330 or 331. The course requires participation for a designated three hours per week with infants and/or toddlers under the supervision of experienced teachers in a supervised infant - toddler care setting. This course may be taken twice for credit.

ECE 350 Introduction to Elementary Teaching with Field Experience 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 10A

Prerequisite: None

Advisory: ECE 312/PSYC 372 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 36 hours LEC; 54 hours LAB

This course is a career exploration course with an early field experience for K-8 teaching. It includes a supervised field placement of four hours weekly in a local elementary school in addition to weekly class meetings on campus. It will fulfill one of the early field experiences for the CSUS blended liberal studies major. Course content includes the profession and culture of teaching, observation skills, communication skills, diversity, and social issues. Field experience will integrate and apply the course content. Not open to students who have completed ENGED 324. ARC area E2

ECE 356 Programs for the School-Age Child 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 9

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course covers the fundamentals of planning, implementing and evaluating programs for before and after school care of school-age children (K-6). Emphasis on developmental levels, age-appropriate activities and day-to-day program operations.

ECE 361 Introducing Young Children to Visual Arts 3 Units

Prerequisite: None

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course prepares teachers in early childhood education with strategies for introducing young children to the media and tools of drawing, painting, sculpting, and other visual arts commonly used by young children to represent and understand the world around them. The focus will be on observing children's natural ways of exploring each medium and learning strategies to facilitate and document children's emerging skills and relationship with each medium. Included are strategies for designing early childhood environments that promote children's exploration of visual arts. AA/AS area B

ECE 363 Music and Movement with Young Children 3 Units

Prerequisite: None

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course focuses on the use of music and movement with children from infancy to age eight in group settings. Theoretical perspectives are reviewed and blended with practical applications that the teacher of young children can use to form a classroom community of learners, manage classroom behavior, and facilitate transitions. It will develop music and movement experience plans and create musical instruments from inexpensive, readily available materials. It will also explore music and movement as ways to involve children with cultural diversity and traditions. AA/AS area B

ECE 404 Children with Special Needs 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 11

Prerequisite: ECE 312/PSYC 372.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is designed to provide a broad overview of the characteristics, assessment techniques, methods of intervention, community and family resources, and current issues of young children (from birth to age eight) with special needs. The focus is to increase the awareness and understanding of children's individual needs in an early childhood setting and to provide practical information to those currently involved with children with special needs. Observations in public or private children's center, schools, and agencies are required.

ECE 410 Health and Safety in Child Care Settings 1 Unit

Formerly: ECE 13

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This course covers health and safety issues in child care centers and Family Day Care Homes. It includes preventative health practices such as control of infectious diseases, injury prevention, nutrition, sanitation, emergency preparedness and evacuation. Meets partial requirements of Assembly Bill 962 for child care providers for the preventative health portion of the bill.

ECE 415 Children's Health, Safety and Nutrition (Same as Nutrition and Foods 320) 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 14

Prerequisite: None

Advisory: ENGWR 102 or ENGWR 103, and ENGRD 116; or ESLR 320 and ESLW 320; or placement through assessment.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is designed to look at basic nutrition, health, and safety needs of children from the prenatal period through school age. Topics include identification of the nutrients in foods as they affect a child's physical and mental development. Course emphasis is placed on maintaining the optimal health, safety, and nutritional status of children at home and in group care. (Not open to students who have completed NUTRI 320.)

ECE 420 Administration of Child Development Centers 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 5

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This is an introductory course in the elements of program planning, budgeting, supervision and personnel administration for schools and private child care and development centers serving children and families.

ECE 422 Advanced Coordination and Supervision of Child Development Programs 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 15

Prerequisite: ECE 320 or 420 or ECE 312/PSYC 372.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This is an advanced course in administration and coordination of multi-faceted Child Development Programs. The emphasis of the course is on publicly funded programs and personnel management. This course meets the requirements of the Education Code under Title 5 and the Commission for Teacher Credentialing.

ECE 424 Adult Supervision: Mentoring in a Collaborative Learning Setting 2 Units

Formerly: ECE 47

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 36 hours LEC

This course covers principles and strategies for teachers who supervise the work of other teachers in early childhood education. Emphasis is on the role of mentor teacher, one who works collaboratively to guide a teaching team within a classroom setting. This course satisfies the adult supervision requirement for the Master Teacher Permit issued by the California Commission on teacher Credentialing.

ECE 430 Culture and Diversity in Early Childhood Education 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 36

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course covers culturally responsive care and education in early childhood settings. It includes the study of childrearing and communication styles as they vary across the diverse cultures represented in the classroom and as they impact a child's development. Included are strategies for helping children negotiate and resolve conflicts caused by cultural differences. AA/AS area 3F

ECE 432 Leadership in Diversity 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 37

Prerequisite: ECE 430.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course expands upon ideas developed in ECE 430. Specific cultural differences are researched and similarities and differences are addressed. The class critically discusses the role of individual perspective and offers suggestions of ways to implement an anti-biased curriculum that allows for diverse viewpoints of all families and staff of children's programs.

ECE 440 Introduction to Family Support Service in Early Childhood Education 3 Units

Formerly: ECE 38

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course will cover topics that provide support services to families as they identify and meet their own goals, nurture the development of their children in the context of their family and culture, and advocate for communities that are supportive to children and families of all cultures. This will include building family relationships, accessing community service and enhancing problem-solving skills.

ECE 496 Teaching Assistant in Early Childhood Education 1-4 Units

Formerly: ECE 46

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9-36 hours LEC; 27-108 hours LAB

This course provides students with an in-depth understanding and greater knowledge of issues, strategies, and skills in regards to specific facets of early childhood education. This course may be taken twice for credit. May be taken up to a maximum of six units.

ECE 498 Work Experience in Early Childhood Education 1-4 Units

Formerly: ECE 48

Prerequisite: Current tuberculosis clearance.

Corequisite: Student must be enrolled in a minimum of 7 units, including this course.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC; 60-300 hours LAB

This course provides work experience in early childhood settings - primarily child care and development centers - with opportunities to work with children from infancy through the school-age years. By combining volunteer or paid work experience with college training, jobs are used as learning settings and together with the employer and the college instructor establish learning objectives for the semester. Enrollment is dependent on employment or on availability of voluntary work placement. Instructor may assist in locating voluntary work placement. Course may be taken four times for a maximum of eight units.