

Associate in Applied Science (AAS)

Early Childhood Education

This program provides students with both academic coursework and field experience necessary to become a teacher of children ages birth to 8 years. The program allows the student to experience working with young children and mentor teachers. The program includes teaching methods in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, children's literature, expressive arts, and observation and assessment techniques. Emphasis is placed on educational foundations, child development, nutrition, families, communities, schools and other agencies. Students entering the Early Childhood Education Program must show evidence of a current TB test and obtain a cleared Portable Background check through Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

See: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/background-checks>

Degree Requirements

- **Communications:**
10 credits - ENGL& 101 English Composition I AND ENGL& 102 Composition II OR CMST& 220 Public Speaking
- **Quantitative Skills:**
10 credits – MATH& 131 Math for Elementary Educators 1 AND MATH& 132 Math for Elementary Educators 2
- **Social Sciences:**
10 credits – HIST& 137 US History 2 AND SOC& 101 Intro to Sociology: DIV
- **Humanities / Natural Sciences:**
5 credits – Choose one of the following: ENGL 270 Literature for Children, CMST& 210 Interpersonal Communication, PHSC 109 Energy & Matter: Physical Sciences, NUTR& 101 Nutrition
- **Diversity:**
5 credits – EDUC& 205 Intro to Education with Field Experience: DIV is required.

Program Requirements

ECED& 105	Intro Early Childhood Education	5
ECED& 107	Health/Safety Nutrition	5
ECED& 120	Practicum-Nurturing Relationships	2
ECED& 160	Curriculum Development	5
ECED& 170	Learning Environments	3
ECED& 180	Language & Literacy Development	3
ECED& 190	Observation/Assessment	3
ECED 225	STEAM in Early Childhood	5
ECED 261	Practicum IV/Principles	3
ECED 262	Practicum V/Practice	3
ECED 263	Practicum VI/Professionalism	3
EDUC& 115	Child Development	5
EDUC& 130	Guiding Behavior	3
EDUC& 150	Child, Family, Community	3
EDUC& 204	Inclusive Education-Birth through 21 focus	5

Diversity and Distribution Lists are available in the Lower Columbia College Academic Catalog and at lowercolumbia.edu/catalog.

Total credits required to earn this degree: 96 with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 in the program requirements.

Students completing this program should acquire the following skills and abilities:

- Create and maintain a safe and healthy environment for young children and families
- Discuss how children differ in their development and approaches to learning
- Apply knowledge of child development to intentionally support physical, social, emotional and cognitive growth
- Develop interpersonal skills to build relationships with children and families, enhancing children's self-esteem, social and emotional development, and problem solving skills
- Utilize theory, research, developmentally appropriate practice and a variety of instructional strategies when planning and implementing curriculum
- Individualize guidance and problem solving techniques to support social and emotional development
- Assess a variety of tools to strengthen the home to school connection
- Examine features of an anti-biased, culturally relevant environment/curriculum, not exclusive to race, ethnicity, family diversity, learning styles and abilities
- Create a professional development plan to maintain knowledge of current issues and trends in the field
- Communicate effectively through the spoken and written word and through visual materials for varied audience and purposes
- Compare and contrast a variety of observation and assessment tools, to analyze data with the purpose of developing age and developmentally appropriate curriculum
- Utilize critical thinking strategies to evaluate the validity of sources, and credit ideas or sources appropriately
- Analyze numerical data from child assessments to plan and implement developmentally appropriate teaching strategies

Revised January 2021 (Effective Fall 2021)

Notes:

Program planning is based on information available at the time of preparation. It is the student's responsibility to meet with their LCC advisor. Consult the LCC catalog for LCC graduation requirements.