

Education: Early Childhood (Birth to 4th Grade)

Description: The Education: Early Childhood (Birth to 4th Grade) Program develops the knowledge and competence of students interested in teaching or working in related careers with children birth through fourth grade. The Program provides a sound theoretical foundation in principles of child growth and development from the prenatal period through the primary years, as well as a functional understanding of programs and curricula appropriate for young children. Skills emphasized include child observation, curriculum planning for diverse learners, advocacy, and interpersonal and communication abilities.

Upon completion of the Program students receive an Associate in Arts degree and may either enter the workforce or transfer to a baccalaureate program in Education. Because the curriculum supports the needs of those wishing to pursue a variety of options including transfer, it is highly recommended that students consult Program advisors, catalogs, and transfer worksheets available in the Career and Transfer Center in order to make appropriate course selections.

Graduates of the Program will be prepared to work as childcare practitioners and directors, parent educators, children's recreation staff, teacher assistants and instructional aides. Graduates who wish to become certified teachers will need to transfer to and complete a Pennsylvania Department of Education approved teacher certification program at a four year college or university.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the Education: Early Childhood degree program graduates will be able to:

- Identify key theories of child development
- Responsibly apply systemic observation, documentation, and other assessment techniques, in partnership with families and other professionals
- Design, implement, and assess differentiated curricula and experiences to positively influence the development of every child
- Demonstrate ethical and professional standards and make decisions as part of continuous collaborative learning, informed reflective practice, and diverse field experiences
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills in the discourse of the discipline.

Program Entry Requirements: New students are normally required to complete the College's placement test prior to their enrollment. Students identified as needing developmental work must satisfactorily complete the appropriate developmental English and mathematics courses as part of the program.

Because students will be required to observe and work with young children the Program requires students to meet the requirements of the Child Protective Services Law, 23 Pa.

C.S.A., section 6344 (relating to prospective child care personnel). Students must therefore present up-to-date Pennsylvania criminal history reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history reports, Department of Public Welfare (child abuse) reports, and health clearances, clearly stating that they are eligible to work with children. (Up-to-date clearance is defined as being no more than 12 months old on the first day of working with children.) Failure to produce up-to-date clearances or a change of clearance status may result in a student's removal from the program. A student who believes that an error of fact has been made in his/her removal may appeal that decision. Information regarding the appeal procedure will be provided with the letter of removal.

Program of Study and Graduation Requirements: To qualify for the Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree in Education: Early Childhood (Birth-4th grade) program, a student must complete a minimum of 62 credit hours as described in the course listing below. Students enrolled this program who are also enrolled in the Early Childhood Education Proficiency Certificate must complete an additional course, ED 151: Health, Safety and Nutrition of Young Children, resulting in 65 credits. In addition, the student must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0, and a minimum grade of "C" in all Education courses. During their matriculation in the Education: Early Childhood (Birth-4th grade), it is strongly recommended that students meet with a designated Education academic advisor to choose their courses. Students whose behavior is viewed as inconsistent with professional standards may be dropped from the curriculum pending a departmental hearing.

Prior Learning Assessment: Students may be eligible to apply for credits for prior learning. Interested students should contact the program coordinator for further information regarding the criteria and an application.

Course Sequence:

Semester 1

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen Ed Req.
ENGL 101 - English Composition I		3 credits	Writing, Research, Info Lit 1
CIS 103 - Computer Applications & Concepts		3 credits	Technological Competency
ED 105 - Foundations of Early Childhood Education		3 credits	
PSYC 101 - Introduction to Psychology		3 credits	Cultural Analysis & Interpretation
MATH 151 - Linear Mathematics * or	For MATH 151 or MATH 152: FNMT 118 with a grade	3 credits	Quantitative Reasoning

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen Ed Req.
MATH 152 - Probability or MATH 123 - Mathematical Principles I	of "C" or better or placement in MATH 161 or higher For MATH 123: FNMT 017 or FNMT 019 completed or placement in FNMT 118 or higher		

Semester 2

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen Ed Req.
ENGL 102 - The Research Paper	ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better	3 credits	Writing, Research, Info Lit 2
ED 135 - Family and Community Relationships		3 credits	
MATH 133 - Mathematical Principles II or MATH 161 - Precalculus I *	For MATH 133: MATH 123 For MATH 161: FNMT 118 with a C or better or MATH 161 (or higher) placement	3 credits	
PSYC 201 - Child Psychology	PSYC 101	3 credits	
ED 204 - Curriculum and Instruction: Engaging Young Children in the Learning Process or ED 214 - Cognition and Learning in the Classroom	ED 105 ENGL 101 and ED 105 or ED 201	3 credits	

Semester 3

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen Ed Req.
ED 222 - Language and Literacy Development in Early Childhood	PSYC 201 , ED 204 or ED 214	3 credits	
ED 230 - Integrating the Arts into Early Childhood Education	ED 105	3 credits	
ED 245 - Assessment of Young Children	ED 204 or ED 214	3 credits	
BIOL 106 - General Biology I		4 credits	Scientific Reasoning
ED 250 - Infant and Toddler Development and Curriculum	ED 204 or ED 214	3 credits	

Semester 4

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen Ed Req.
ED 255 - Teaching English Language Learners	ED 105 or ED 201 and ED 204 or ED 214	3 credits	
ED 265 - Introduction to Special Education and Inclusive Practices	ED 105 or ED 201 and PSYC 201 or PSYC 209 or PSYC 215	3 credits	
HIST 101 - United States History: Colonial America through the Revolutionary Era or HIST 102 - United States History: The Civil War and the 19th Century or HIST 103 - United States History: The 20th Century and Beyond		3 credits	

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen Ed Req.
ED 290 - Early Childhood Educ Practicum	ED 222 and ED 245	3 credits	
ENGL 115 - Public Speaking		3 credits	Oral Communication/ Creative Expression

Minimum Credits Needed to Graduate: 62

* Students who are planning to transfer to Temple University should enroll in MATH 151 or MATH 152 and MATH 161.

** Directed Electives should be selected in consultation with an advisor based on career goals and requirements of the institution to which the student plans to transfer. Note that many baccalaureate programs in education require two semesters of college level math and two semesters of lab science.

*** Students who enter the College at the [MATH 161](#) level or higher can complete this program in 62 credits. Students who enter the College at a lower level on the Math placement exam will need to take [FNMT 118](#) - Intermediate Algebra and thus will need 65 credits to graduate.

**** Students enrolled in the Early Childhood Education Proficiency Certificate should also complete [ED 151 - Health, Safety and Nutrition of Young Children](#).

Proposed Courses and Completion Sequence:

The following courses and sequence of courses is designed for the optimal success and completion of the [Education: Early Childhood \(Birth to 4th Grade\)](#) degree/certificate. Any alterations should be discussed with your academic advisor.

Semester 1

Course Number and Name	Credits	Advisory Notes	Course Type
ENGL 101 - English Composition	3 credits	Students taking English 101 and 102 should consider the contextualized education- related	Writing/Research/Info Lit 1

Course Number and Name	Credits	Advisory Notes	Course Type
		version of the English courses.	
CIS 103 - Computer Applications & Concepts	3 credits		Technological Competency
ED 105 - Foundations of Early Childhood Education	3 credits	ED 105 is a prerequisite for ED 222, ED 255 and ED 265 Students will complete their required clearances, health assessment, and mandated reporter certificate, once approved the students will upload them onto the digital repository, Castle branch. All clearances must be maintained and be current within 12 months.	Major Course
PSYC 101 - Introduction to Psychology	3 credits	PSYC 101 is a prerequisite for PSYC 102, ED 204 and ED 214	Cultural Analysis & Interpretation
MATH 151 - Linear Mathematics or MATH 152 - Probability or MATH 123 - Mathematical Principles I	3 credits	MATH 123: FNMT 017 or FNMT 019 completed or placement in FNMT 118 or higher MATH 151 or MATH 152: FNMT 118 with a C or better or MATH 161 (or higher) placement	Quantitative Reasoning

Semester 2

Course Number and Name	Credits	Advisory Notes	Course Type
ENGL 102 - The Research Paper	3 credits		Writing/Research/Info Lit 2
ED 135 - Family and Community Relationships	3 credits	Early Childhood Education Proficiency Certificate requires completion of ED 135, ED 151, and ED 230	Major Course
MATH 161 - Precalculus I or MATH 133 - Mathematical Principles II	3 credits		Major Course
PSYC 201 - Child Psychology	3 credits	PSYC 201 is a prerequisite for ED 222 and ED 255	Major Course
ED 204 - Curriculum and Instruction: Engaging Young Children in the Learning Process or ED 214 - Cognition and Learning in the Classroom	3 credits	ED 204: A 10-hour observation in an early childhood education setting/classroom is required. All clearances must be maintained and be current within 12 months. ED 204 and ED 214 are prerequisites for ED 222, ED 230, ED 250 and ED 255 ED 214: A 10-hour observation in an education setting/classroom is required. All clearances must be maintained and be current within 12 months.	Major Course

Semester 3

Course Number and Name	Credits	Advisory Notes	Course Type
ED 222 - Language and Literacy Development in Early Childhood	3 credits	PSYC 201, ED 204 and ED 214 are prerequisites for ED 222 PSYC 201, ED 204 and ED 214 are prerequisites for ED 230	Major Course
ED 230 - Integrating the Arts into Early Childhood Education	3 credits	Early Childhood Education Proficiency Certificate requires completion of ED 135, ED 151, and ED 230	Major Course
ED 245 - Assessment of Young Children	3 credits	ED 245: A 20-hour observation is required in an early childhood setting/classroom. All clearances must be maintained and be current within 12 months.	Major Course
BIOL 106 - General Biology I	4 credits	PSYC 201, ED 204 and ED 214 are prerequisites for ED 250	Scientific Reasoning
ED 250 - Infant and Toddler Development and Curriculum	3 credits	ED 250: A 10-hour observation in an infant –toddler early childhood education setting is required. All clearances must be maintained and be current within 12 months.	Major Course

Semester 4

Course Number and Name	Credits	Advisory Notes	Course Type
ED 255 - Teaching English Language Learners	3 credits	ED 105 or ED 201, ED 204 and ED 214 are prerequisites for ED 255	Major Course
ED 265 - Introduction to Special Education and	3 credits	ED 105 and PSYC 209 are prerequisites for ED 265 ED 265: A 10-hour observation in an early	Major Course

Course Number and Name	Credits	Advisory Notes	Course Type
Inclusive Practices		intervention setting, or an inclusive setting, or a special education classroom is required. All clearances must be maintained and be current within 12 months.	
HIST 101 - United States History: Colonial America through the Revolutionary Era or HIST 102 - United States History: The Civil War and the 19th Century or HIST 103 - United States History: The 20th Century and Beyond	3 credits		
ED 290 - Early Childhood Educ Practicum	4 credits	ED 290: A 96-hour pre-student teaching field experience is required in an early childhood setting /classroom. All clearances must be maintained and be current within 12 months.	Major Course
ENGL 115 - Public Speaking	3 credits		Oral Communication/Creative Expression

Students enrolled in the Early Childhood Education Proficiency Certificate must complete an additional course, ED 151: Health, Safety and Nutrition of Young Children, resulting in 65 credits