

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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The Early Childhood Education program is designed to educate professionals in a range of diverse positions to serve infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children in group situations, as well as to serve their families. Students are trained in college affiliated, nationally accredited early childhood education centers which serve as field sites.

To earn an Associate in Applied Science degree or one of several certificates, ECE students must achieve a minimum grade of C in all Early Childhood Education courses and successfully complete field experiences before being accepted in practicum, earning a certificate, or being granted the A.A.S. degree.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children and Oakton's ECE program encourage persons entering the field to have a minimum of an ECE certificate or an A.A.S. degree.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services requires child care workers to have a minimum of six credit hours in early childhood education, and two years of college credit to be licensed to teach young children in group situations. Students seeking to meet only these minimum DCFS requirements should take the following ECE core courses:

Early Childhood Education Core Courses

Code	Title	Hours
ECE 102	Child Growth and Development	3
One course of the following:		3
ECE 104	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	
ECE 107	Observation and Assessment of the Young Child	
ECE 108	Nutrition, Health and Safety for the Young Child	
ECE 270	Child, Family, and Community Relations	