Online Associate in Applied Science Degree
Early Childhood Education

Program Overview

The goal of the ECE AAS degree is to prepare students to work with young children from birth through age eight and provide students with the background in child development and general studies necessary for a career as an early childhood professional. Graduates will be prepared for positions as a center-based teacher, assistant teacher, teacher aide, family child care provider, teacher aide in public schools, and program director in a variety of early childhood settings such as center-based programs, family child care homes, Head Start programs, and early intervention programs serving children with special needs. The degree also prepares students for teacher's aide positions in public programs such as Pre-Kindergarten. All students in the program must go through a background check as required by Department of Children and Family Services. Additionally, a physical exam proving the student is free of communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, and physical or mental conditions which could affect his or her ability to perform assigned duties is required.

Field or clinical experiences are requirements of all ECE classes including observation assignments, interviews, teaching lesson plans with small groups and individuals. Students will conduct assessments of children, classrooms, and programs. Practicum I and Practicum II provide students with abundant teaching experiences that include planning and implementing developmentally appropriate curriculum, building relationships with families, team teaching, classroom management and guidance techniques.

Both Practicum courses are conducted in approved and licensed early childhood programs.
The courses and degree are designed to accommodate full-time and part-time students, including those currently employed in ECE settings.

The Associate in Applied Science Degree Early Childhood Education degree is not intended to transfer to a four-year university. It is intended for those students who wish to get a job after earning the degree. For students who want to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education, for teacher certification, please see the Early Childhood AA Degree Curriculum Guide. Consult a college counselor or academic advisor for professional guidance.

**What Students Have Said . . .**

“I enjoyed this class. It was very clearly laid out and I knew what was expected of me. The assignments and discussions were very conducive to critical thinking and actually learning the material, not just memorizing and repeating. The teacher was available for help and corresponded with us on questions, announcements and grades in a timely manner.”

“I enjoyed this class just like I did the other ECE courses I have taken. I am going to continue towards my goal of getting my Associates in ECE. I have taken three classes already this year, and I am signed up for two more.”

“I learned a lot of new things in this class and not just from the information in the book. I have learned that I can take a college class on line and not totally destroy my computer. I learned that I can do research online and write a paper after 35 years of not even considering writing a research paper. There are so many other things I learned from this class that I could write a small book. Thanks again for all your help and encouragement through this class.”