

Associate in Applied Science Degree

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

If you enjoy children and creative activities, possess patience, excellent communication skills, sound decision-making abilities, and have a strong work ethic, HGTC's Associate in Applied Science in Early Care and Education (ECD) might be the right career path for you. Early Care and Education professionals work in partnership with families to create a nurturing environment that is respectful of culture and rich in experiences to promote the optimal growth and development of each child. Students in this program receive the tools and resources necessary to provide language- and literacy-rich environments, appropriate math and science skills, an inquiry-based approach to learning about the world, and safe, healthy environments that promote emotional and social well-being. The program includes interactive classroom experiences, as well as off-site experiences in a variety of childcare and early education environments.

The Early Care and Education Associate Degree prepares students for careers and/or advancement in the early childhood profession. Graduates will be qualified to work in childcare centers, family childcare homes, morning preschool programs, after-school programs, summer camp programs, and some private school programs.

Admissions Information

Specific Admission Requirements for Program

- Criminal Background Check is a prerequisite to lab classes and field experiences in licensed child care centers (not required for ECD 101)
- Obtain Negative PPD (not required for ECD 101)
- Certification in Pediatric CPR and First Aid in ECD 135 (prior to graduation)

Required Courses

Early Care and Education Requirements

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Component	Course Title	Semester Credit Hours
GENERAL EDUCATION		
MAT 155	Contemporary Mathematics	3
PSY 201	General Psychology	3
ENG 155	Communications I	3
<i>Select one course from the following list:</i>		
BIO 105	Principles of Biology	4
PSC 201	American Government***	3
HIS 201	American History: Disc to 1877***	3
<i>and</i>		
<i>Select one Humanities/Fine Arts course from the list below:</i>		
ART 101	Art History and Appreciation	3
ART 105	Film as Art	3
ENG 201	American Literature I	3
ENG 202	American Literature II	3
ENG 205	English Literature I	3
ENG 206	English Literature II	3
ENG 208	World Literature I	3
ENG 209	World Literature II	3
ENG 230	Women in Literature	3
ENG 236	African American Literature	3
HIS 101	Western Civilization to 1689	3

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HIS 102	Western Civilization Post 1689	3
HIS 201	American History: Disc. to 1877 (Note: Course may not be taken if selected to satisfy General Education requirement above.)	3
HIS 202	American History: 1877 to Pres.	3
MUS 105	Music Appreciation	3
PHI 101	Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHI 110	Ethics	3
PHI 201	History of Philosophy	3
PHI 211	Moral Philosophy	3
REL 103	Comparative Religion	3
SPA 201	Intermediate Spanish I	3
SPA 202	Intermediate Spanish II	3
THE 101	Introduction to Theatre	3
CREDITS		15
REQUIRED CORE SUBJECT AREAS		
ECD 101	Introduction to Early Childhood	3
ECD 102	Growth and Development I	3
ECD 203	Growth and Development II**	3
ECD 105	Guidance - Classroom Management*	3
ECD 107	Exceptional Child*	3
ECD 135	Health, Safety, and Nutrition**	3
ECD 243	Supervised Field Experience**	3
CREDITS		21
OTHER HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION		
ECD 108	Family and Community Relations	3
ECD 131	Language Arts**	3
ECD 132	Creative Experiences	3
ECD 133	Science and Math Concepts**	3
ECD 200	Foundations of Special Education	3
ECD 237	Methods and Materials**	3
ECD 252	Diversity Issues in Early Care and Education*	3
EDU 201	Classroom Inquiry with Technology	3
and		
Select one course from the list below:		
ECD 201	Principles of Ethics and Leadership in Early Care & Education	3

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ECD 205	Socialization & Group Care of Infants & Toddlers	3
ECD 109	Administration & Supervision	3
SAC 101	Best Practices in School Age & Youth Care Skills	3
	CREDITS	27
	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	63

*Students are required to conduct observations of children, families, and learning environments in a variety of early childhood settings.

**Students are required to participate in lab/class assignments involving visits to licensed childcare facilities.

***PSC 201 and HIS 201 recommended for transfer to satisfy the Reach Act. The Reach Act was passed by the General Assembly in 2021.

Note: ECD 107 is also available in the spring and ECD 135 is also available in the fall.