

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.

Program 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)

Course Sequence and Progression Requirements

A minimum grade of C or better is required for all ECD-prefixed courses and SAC 101 for progression and graduation. Most Early Care and Education (ECD) courses are offered only once each year, so following the recommended course sequence is extremely important.

CURRICULUM SEQUENCE

First Semester - Fall	Course Title	Semester Credit Hours
ECD 101	Introduction to Early Childhood	3
ECD 102	Growth and Development I	3
ECD 108	Family and Community Relations	3
ENG 155	Communications I	3
	Choose from list of courses below****	3
	TOTAL	15
Second Semester - Spring		
ECD 105	Guidance - Classroom Management*	3
ECD 131	Language Arts**	3
ECD 203	Growth and Development II*	3
	Choose from list of courses below****	6
	TOTAL	15
Third Semester - Summer		
ECD 107	Exceptional Child*	3
ECD 133	Science and Math Concepts**	3
ECD 135	Health, Safety, and Nutrition**	3
	TOTAL	9
Fourth Semester - Fall		

(Continued)

ECD 132	Creative Experiences	3
ECD 200	Foundations of Special Education	3
ECD 237	Methods and Materials**	3
	Choose from list of courses below****	3-4
	TOTAL	12-13
Fifth Semester - Spring		
ECD 252	Diversity Issues in Early Care and Education*	3
ECD 243	Supervised Field Experience**	3
	Choose from list of courses below****	6
	TOTAL	12
	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	63-64

*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 (Reach Act).

****Students must take the following general education classes: MAT 155, PSY 201 and EDU 201; and must choose one from the following general education electives: BIO 105, PSC 201 or HIS 201; and must choose one Humanities: ART 101, MUS 105 or THE 101; and must choose one ECD elective: ECD 201, ECD 205, ECD 109 or SAC 101.

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