



*A Course of Study for*

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AS**

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Early Childhood Education majors will be trained to supervise and provide care and learning experiences for infant through eight-year-old children in a variety of early childhood settings. Early Childhood Education professionals adhere to the guidelines as well as the Professional Code of Ethics of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) providing developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for the enhancement of the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and creative domains of young children. The Early Childhood Education major focuses on educational practices that emphasize interpersonal relationships, cultural diversity, child-centered curriculum and the inclusion of children with special needs in all educational opportunities.

The Early Childhood Education Program major follows a natural progression that allows students to move from short to long-term educational goals: preparation for the state Children’s Center Permit, fulfillment of post certificate Professional Development, completion of advanced California Career Ladder courses (*including paired specialization courses as well as the California State Mentor course*), completion of an Associate degree in Early Childhood Education – Career, Associate degree in Early Childhood Intervention assistant, Associate degree in Early Childhood Intervention Teacher, and transfer to a four-year institution.

Possible Early Childhood Education career goals include Early Childhood Education Teacher, Early Education Director, Early Childhood Intervention Assistant, Early Childhood Intervention Teacher, Family Home Child Care Provider, Private ECE Center Owner/Director, K through 12 Teacher, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, K through 12 Special Education Teacher, Parent Educator, Early Childhood Education Instructor, Marriage Family and Child Counselor, Child-Life Specialist.

The Early Childhood Intervention Assistant program will prepare students for career placements in public and/or private early intervention and educational settings that serve typically and atypically developing young children. Specific jobs and responsibilities may include serving as an early childhood educator with a specialization in working with children with special needs, special education assistant for children birth to eight years of age, a one-to-one aide for a child (e.g., “inclusion facilitator”), classroom aide with expertise in special needs, or as an assistant to the early intervention team for infants birth to three years of age.

**Grid for Early Childhood Education courses at California Community Colleges can be found at:**  
[childdevelopment.org/cs/cdtc/print/htdocs/services\\_colleges\\_aligned.htm](http://childdevelopment.org/cs/cdtc/print/htdocs/services_colleges_aligned.htm)

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Transfer Preparation

## DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

### Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT)

- Early Childhood Education (*refer to ECE AS-T sheet*)

### Associate Degrees

- Early Childhood Studies
- Early Intervention/Special Education Assistant (*formerly Early Intervention Assistant*)
- Infant/Toddler Teacher

### Certificates of Achievement

- Early Childhood Associate Teacher
- Early Childhood Studies
- Early Intervention/Special Education Assistant (*formerly Early Intervention Assistant*)
- Elementary Teacher Education
- Infant/Toddler Teacher
- Nature-based Pedagogy
- Transitional Kindergarten

### Noncredit Certificate of Completion

- Introduction to Early Care and Education

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

An Associate degree is granted upon successful completion of a program of study with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 (C) in degree applicable coursework and a minimum of **60 degree applicable semester units**, including:

- Completion of the area of emphasis with a grade of C or higher in each course, or with a P if the course was taken on a Pass/No Pass basis, and the P is equal to a C or higher;
- Completion of one of the following general education patterns: SMC GE, CSU GE, or IGETC;
- Completion of the SMC Global Citizenship graduation requirement.

## CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

A Certificate of Achievement is granted upon successful completion of a program of study with a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 (C) and a **designated minimum number of units**, including:

- Completion of the area of emphasis with a grade of C or higher in each course, or with a P if the course was taken on a Pass/No Pass basis, and the P is equal to a C or higher;
- Completion of at least 50% of area of emphasis units at Santa Monica College. Department Chairs have the discretion to waive the 50% minimum units required at SMC to meet the major or area of emphasis. All major coursework must be completed with a "C" or better grade.

## DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

A Department Certificate is granted upon successful completion of a program of study with a **designated minimum number of units**, including:

- Completion of the area of emphasis with a grade of C or higher in each course, or with a P if the course was taken on a Pass/No Pass basis, and the P is equal to a C or higher;
- Completion of at least 50% of area of emphasis units at Santa Monica College. Department Chairs have the discretion to waive the 50% minimum units required at SMC to meet the major or area of emphasis. All major coursework must be completed with a “C” or better grade.

Note: Department Certificates are not noted on student transcripts. Students must submit a petition to the relevant academic department to be awarded a Department Certificate.

## CATALOG RIGHTS

A student may satisfy the requirements of a degree that were in effect at any time of the student’s *continuous* enrollment. Continuous enrollment means attendance in at least one semester (Fall or Spring) in each academic year.

## TRANSFER PREPARATION

Many colleges/universities offer baccalaureate degrees in this field. Students planning to transfer to a four-year college or university should complete the lower-division major requirements and the general education pattern for the specific transfer institution. SMC has articulation agreements with the many UC and CSU campuses, as well as several private and out-of-state institutions.

Exact major requirements for UC and CSU campuses can be found online at [assist.org](http://assist.org).

A listing of private, non-profit California colleges and universities can be found online at [aiccu.edu](http://aiccu.edu). For articulation agreements between SMC and some of these institutions see [smc.edu/articulation](http://smc.edu/articulation).

## EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES, ASSOCIATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

*Please note: This is NOT the CSU transfer degree. For details about the Early Childhood Education Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) to CSU, please see ECE AS-T sheet.*

The Early Childhood Studies focuses on educational practices that emphasize interpersonal relationships, cultural diversity, child-centered curriculum and the inclusion of children with special needs in all educational opportunities. The curriculum prepares students to teach or administer programs for young children that include: private early childhood programs, public programs such as school district children centers and Head Start Programs, Head Start, Infant and School Age Programs. The Early Childhood Studies program is geared toward students wishing to prepare for employment in early childhood programs. Emphasis is placed in preparing students for early entry into the workforce. The program provides a sequential path that allows students to obtain the academic requirements for various state permits – Associate Teacher, Assistant Teacher, and Teacher. Students may build on the courses provided by the Early Childhood Studies program to later transfer. However, the AS-T in ECE is the recommended option for students desiring to transfer.

**Program Learning Outcomes:** Use developmental theory and research to support children's learning across developmental domains (cognitive, social-emotional, physical).

Demonstrate skills (e.g. reflective listening, positive interactions) and abilities (e.g. collaboration, cultural humility, empathy) required to build family, school, and community relationships that support children's development and learning.

Design culturally and developmentally appropriate environments and curriculum informed by developmental theory and analysis of observation and assessment data.

Demonstrate anti-bias and inclusive teaching practices to scaffold development and learning, guide behavior, engage in reflective practice, and communicate effectively with children, families, and colleagues.

### AREA OF EMPHASIS: (30 UNITS)

#### Required Core Courses: (24 units)

ECE 2	Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children	3
ECE 11	Child, Family and Community	3
ECE 21	Observation and Assessment	4
ECE 22	Practicum in Early Childhood Education	5
ECE 45	Introduction to Children with Special Needs	3
ECE 64	Health, Safety and Nutrition for Young Children	3
PSYCH 11	Child Growth and Development	3

#### Required Curriculum Courses; Select 2 Courses from the following: (6 units)

ECE 4	Language and Literature for the Young Child	3
ECE 5	Math and Science for the Young Child	3
ECE 8	Creative Experiences – Art, Music and Movement	3
ECE 17	Introduction to Curriculum	3

## EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATE TEACHER, CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Students completing an Early Childhood Associate Teacher Certificate are qualified to teach in a private child development program licensed under Title 22 of the Department of Social Services. It also fulfills the educational requirements for students seeking a California Child Development Permit Matrix at the Associate Teacher Level issued by the California Commission of Teaching Credentialing. Students that desire to work in an early childhood setting are required to minimally complete these core classes.

**Program Learning Outcomes:** Use developmental theory and research to support children's learning across developmental domains (cognitive, social-emotional, physical).

Demonstrate skills (e.g. reflective listening, positive interactions) and abilities (e.g. collaboration, cultural humility, empathy) required to build family, school, and community relationships that support children's development and learning.

Design culturally and developmentally appropriate environments and curriculum informed by developmental theory and analysis of observation and assessment data.

### AREA OF EMPHASIS: (12 UNITS)

#### Required Courses: (9 units)

ECE 2	Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children	3
ECE 11	Child, Family and Community	3
PSYCH 11	Child Growth and Development	3
<b>Select 1 additional Course from the following courses: (3 units)</b>		
ECE 4	Language and Literature for the Young Child	3
ECE 5	Math and Science for the Young Child	3
ECE 8	Creative Experiences – Art, Music, and Movement	3
ECE 17	Introduction to Curriculum	3

## EARLY INTERVENTION/SPECIALIST EDUCATION ASSISTANT (FORMERLY EARLY INTERVENTION ASSISTANT), ASSOCIATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Early Childhood Education majors will be trained to supervise and provide care and learning experiences for children from infancy through eight years of age in a variety of early childhood settings.

Early Childhood Education professionals adhere to the guidelines as well as the Professional Code of Ethics of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and provide developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for the enhancement of the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and creative domains of young children.

The Early Intervention/Special Education Assistant program will prepare students for career placements in public and/or private early intervention and educational settings that serve young children with a range of developmental strengths, abilities and needs. Specific jobs and responsibilities may include serving as an early childhood educator with a specialization in working with children with exceptionalities, a special education assistant for children birth to eight years of age, a one-to-one assistant for children with exceptionalities (e.g., inclusion facilitator), a classroom assistant with expertise in special needs, or as an assistant teacher on an early intervention team serving infants and toddlers birth to three years of age.

**Program Learning Outcomes:** Use developmental theory and research and knowledge of best practices in early childhood special education to support learning for children across developmental domains (cognitive, social-emotional, physical).

Demonstrate skills (e.g. reflective listening, positive interactions) and abilities (e.g. collaboration, cultural humility, empathy) required to build family, school, and community relationships that support children's development and address the needs of children with disabilities or delays and their families.

Design culturally and developmentally appropriate environments, curricula, and curricular modifications and accommodations based on developmental theory and analysis of observation and assessment data and individualized education/family service plans.

Demonstrate anti-bias, inclusive, and individualized teaching practices and strategies to scaffold development and learning and guide the behavior of children with and without disabilities or delays, engage in reflective practice, and communicate effectively with children, families, and colleagues.

### AREA OF EMPHASIS: (33 UNITS)

#### Required Courses:

ECE 2	Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children	3
ECE 11	Child, Family and Community	3
ECE 17	Introduction to Curriculum	3
ECE 21	Observation and Assessment	4
ECE 23	Practicum in Early Intervention/Special Education	5
ECE 32	Communicating with Families	3
ECE 45	Introduction to Children with Special Needs	3
ECE 46	Infant and Toddler Development	3
ECE 49	Curriculum and Strategies for Children with Special Needs	3
PSYCH 11	Child Growth and Development	3

## ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION, CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

The cross-disciplinary courses that are part of this certificate serve as an introduction to the field of teaching. Courses seek to inspire and prepare future educators to teach in urban classrooms, to learn essential professional knowledge including professional teaching standards and ethics, to conduct fieldwork in order to learn how to meet the diverse needs of students and roles of the teacher, and to gain a foundation of knowledge across some of the disciplines that will be necessary for teaching elementary students. Students also develop critical reading, writing, and thinking skills that are pertinent to working in the era of standards-based classroom instruction.

**Program Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate critical thinking skills, specifically in relation to a liberal arts curriculum, and demonstrate an understanding of content from the CA Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts.

### AREA OF EMPHASIS: (18 UNITS)

#### Required Courses:

COM ST 11	Elements of Public Speaking	3
EDUC 12	Introduction to Elementary Classroom Teaching and Field Experiences	3
ENGL 1	Reading and Composition 1	3
ENGL 18	Children's Literature	3
MATH 41	Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers	3
PSYCH 11	Child Growth and Development	3

## INFANT/TODDLER TEACHER, ASSOCIATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

This program prepares students to work with infants/toddlers (0-36 months) enabling the student to assist a teacher in a public infant/toddler program or teach infants/toddlers in a private child care setting. In addition, students will develop skills to create respectful, reciprocal relationships that support, empower, and involve families in their children's learning and development.

Early Childhood Education professionals adhere to the guidelines as well as the Professional Code of Ethics of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) providing developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for the enhancement of the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and creative domains of young children.

**Program Learning Outcomes:** Use developmental theory and research to support infant and toddler development across the domains (cognitive, social-emotional, and physical).

Demonstrate skills (e.g. reflective listening, positive interactions) and abilities (e.g. collaboration, cultural humility, empathy) required to build family, school, and community relationships that support infant and toddler development and learning.

Design culturally and developmentally appropriate environments and curriculum informed by development theory and analysis of observation and assessment data.

Demonstrate responsive, relationship-based teaching practices that support infant and toddler development and learning, guide behavior, are grounded in reflective practice, and adhere to legal and best practices and policies.

### AREA OF EMPHASIS: (30 UNITS)

#### Required Courses:

ECE 2	Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children	3
ECE 11	Child, Family and Community	3
ECE 17	Introduction to Curriculum	3
ECE 21	Observation and Assessment	4
ECE 22	Practicum in Early Childhood Education	5
ECE 32	Communicating with Families	3
ECE 46	Infant and Toddler Development	3
ECE 71	Infants and Toddler Education and Care	3
PSYCH 11	Child Growth and Development	3



## NATURE-BASED PEDAGOGY, CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

This certificate provides a foundation in child development, highlighting nature, environmental education, and stewardship. It includes an exploration of a nature-based pedagogy continuum; from nature-focused activities through forest Kindergarten principles and practices, as well as strategies and resources to support children in developing and fostering a curiosity of the world around them. Cultural diversity and placed-based influences will be a focus.

Outdoor learning environments (OLEs) stimulate the diversity of children's play experience and contribute to their healthy development. Through observation and assessment opportunities, candidates will experience first-hand and outdoor learning environment; discovering skills and understanding required to create, manage, promote, and organize a quality outdoor learning environment for children.

### Program Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate:

1. How to assess early childhood outdoor learning environments.
2. Utilize benefit-risk assessment when introducing an outdoor learning experience.
3. Explain how having a quality early childhood outdoor learning environments can positively impact physical activity and healthy eating in young children.
4. Infuse early childhood education with environmental education learning opportunities.
5. Describe how outdoor environments and nature connection can support early childhood development.

### AREA OF EMPHASIS: (22 UNITS)

#### Required Courses:

ECE 2	Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children	3
ECE 11	Child, Family and Community	3
ECE 17	Introduction to Curriculum	3
ECE 21	Observation and Assessment	4
ECE 76	Children in Nature	3
ECE 77	Nature: In, Out and Beyond	3
PSYCH 11	Child Growth and Development	3

## TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN, CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

The goal of the Transitional Kindergarten certificate is to provide a strand of unit bearing curriculum specifically designed to meet the needs of current Transitional Kindergarten (TK) teachers as well as Multiple Subject credential holders needing the Early Childhood unit requirement to be a TK teacher.

**Program Learning Outcomes:** Use developmental theory and research to support children's learning across developmental domains (cognitive, social-emotional, physical).

Demonstrate skills (e.g. reflective listening, positive interactions) and abilities (e.g. collaboration, cultural humility, empathy) required to build family, school, and community relationships that support children's development and learning.

Design culturally and developmentally appropriate environments and curriculum informed by developmental theory and analysis of observation and assessment data.

Develop / align the transitional kindergarten curriculum to the California Preschool Learning Foundations.

### AREA OF EMPHASIS: (24 UNITS)

#### Required Courses:

ECE 2	Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children	3
ECE 24	Preschool and Early Primary Development	3
ECE 25	Assessment in Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten	3
ECE 26	CA Preschool Foundations and Frameworks 1	3
ECE 27	CA Preschool Foundations and Frameworks 2	3
ECE 28	Practicum in Transitional Kindergarten Teaching	3
ECE 29	Reflective Practice Seminar	3
ECE 30	Strategies for Working with Challenging Behaviors	3

## INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION, CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION (NONCREDIT)

This program serves as an introduction to the theoretical and practical knowledge required for working with young children in an early care and education setting. It will help individuals determine their level of interest in the early care and education field, prepare students for credit-bearing coursework in Early Childhood Education, and count toward the professional growth requirement for the renewal of an existing Child Development Permit. The program consists of a sequence of courses that prepares students with the knowledge and skills needed to gain employment as an entry-level Assistant Teacher or Family Child Care Provider. This includes an understanding of child development from birth to age 5, basic principles of early care and education, planning culturally responsive curriculum, communicating with children and families, licensing regulations, health and safety standards, and employment seeking strategies. These courses are not intended as a substitute for any Certificate or Associate in Science – Early Childhood Education or related degrees coursework, which provide state mandated education and fieldwork experiences leading to a Child Development Permit and employment as an early care and education associate teacher or higher. After completing this program, students who wish to pursue a certificate / degree in Early Childhood Education are encouraged to meet with a Counselor to create and Education Plan.

**Program Learning Outcomes:** Apply foundational knowledge and skills needed to work with children ages 0-5 and their families in an early care and education setting.

Discuss child development theories and how they can be used to support teachers in planning and preparing culturally responsive and developmentally appropriate classroom and curriculum experiences.

Describe the licensing and workforce requirements for group care and education for young children in California.

### AREA OF EMPHASIS: (0 UNITS)

#### Child Development Courses:

ECE NC 901	Introduction to Early Care and Education	0
ECE NC 902	Culturally Relevant Curriculum	0
ECE NC 903	Early Care Licensing and Workforce Readiness	0

CHILD DEVELOPMENT PERMIT MATRIX - WITH ALTERNATIVE QUALIFICATION OPTIONS					
PERMIT TITLE	EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (Option 1 for all permits)	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT (Applies to Option 1 Only)	ALTERNATIVE QUALIFICATIONS (with option numbers included)	AUTHORIZATION	FIVE YEAR RENEWAL
ASSISTANT (OPTIONAL)	<b>Option 1:</b> 6 units of Early Childhood Education (ECE) <u>or</u> Child Development (CD)	None	<b>Option 2:</b> Accredited HERO Program (including ROP)	Authorizes the holder to care for and assist in the development and instruction of children in a child care and development program under the supervision of an Associate Teacher, Teacher, Master Teacher, Site Supervisor or Program Director.	<b>105 hours of professional growth*****</b>
ASSOCIATE TEACHER	<b>Option 1:</b> 12 units of ECE/CD including core courses**	50 days of 3+ hours per day within 2 years	<b>Option 2:</b> Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential	Authorizes the holder to provide service in the care, development, and instruction of children in a child care and development program, and supervise an Assistant and an aide.	<b>Must complete 15 additional units toward a Teacher Permit. Must meet Teacher requirements within 10 years.</b>
TEACHER	<b>Option 1:</b> 24 units ECE/CD including core courses**, <u>plus</u> 16 general education units*	175 days of 3+ hours per day within 4 years	<b>Option 2:</b> Associate degree or higher in ECE/CD or related field with 3 units supervised field experience in ECE/CD setting	Authorizes the holder to provide service in the care, development and instruction of children in a child care and development program, and supervise an Associate Teacher, Assistant and an aide.	<b>105 hours of professional growth*****</b>
MASTER TEACHER	<b>Option 1:</b> 24 units ECE/CD including core courses**, <u>plus</u> 16 GE units*, <u>plus</u> 6 specialization units, <u>plus</u> 2 adult supervision units	350 days of 3+ hours per day within 4 years	<b>Option 2:</b> BA or higher (does not have to be in ECE/CD) with 12 units of ECE/CD, <u>plus</u> 3 units of supervised field experience in ECE/CD setting	Authorizes the holder to provide service in the care, development and instruction of children in a child care and development program, and supervise a Teacher, Associate Teacher, Assistant and an aide. The permit also authorizes the holder to serve as a coordinator of curriculum and staff development.	<b>105 hours of professional growth*****</b>
SITE SUPERVISOR	<b>Option 1:</b> Associate Degree (or 60 units) which includes: 24 ECE/CD units with core courses**, <u>plus</u> 6 administration units, <u>plus</u> 2 adult supervision units	350 days of 3+ hours per day within 4 years including at least 100 days of supervising adults	<b>Option 2:</b> BA or higher (does not have to be in ECE/CD) with 12 units of ECE/CD, <u>plus</u> 3 units supervised field experience in ECE/CD setting; <u>or</u> <b>Option 3:</b> Admin. Credential*** with 12 units of ECE/CD, <u>plus</u> 3 units supervised field experience in ECE/CD setting; <u>or</u> <b>Option 4:</b> Teaching credential**** with 12 units of ECE/CD, <u>plus</u> 3 units supervised field experience in ECE/CD settings	Authorizes the holder to supervise a child care and development operating as a single site; provide service in the care, development, and instruction of children in a child care and development program; and serve as a coordinator of curriculum and staff development.	<b>105 hours of professional growth*****</b>
PROGRAM DIRECTOR	<b>Option 1:</b> BA or higher (does not have to be in ECE/ED) including: 24 ECE/CD units with core courses**, <u>plus</u> 6 administration units, <u>plus</u> 2 adult supervision units	One year of Site Supervisor experience	<b>Option 2:</b> Admin. credential*** with 12 units of ECE/CD, <u>plus</u> 3 units supervised field experience in ECE/CD setting; <u>or</u> <b>Option 3:</b> Teaching credential*** with 12 units of ECE/CD, <u>plus</u> 3 units supervised field experience in ECE/CD setting, plus 6 units administration; <u>or</u> <b>Option 4:</b> Master's Degree in ECE/CD or Child/Human Development	Authorizes the holder to supervise a child care and development program operating in a single site or multiple sites; provide service in the care, development, and instruction of children in a child care and development program; and serve as coordinator of curriculum and staff development.	<b>105 hours of professional growth*****</b>

**NOTE: All unit requirements listed above are semester units. All course work must be completed with a grade of C or better from a regionally accredited college. Spanish translation is available.**

**\*One course in each of four general education categories, which are degree applicable: English/Language Arts; Math or Science; Social Science; Humanities and/or Fine Arts.**

**\*\*Core courses include child/human growth and development, Child/Family/Community or Child and Family Relations; and Programs/Curriculum. You must have a minimum of three semester units or four quarter units in each of the core areas.**

**\*\*\*Holders of the Administrative Services Credential may serve as a Site Supervisor or Program Director.**

**\*\*\*\*A valid Multiple Subject or a Single Subject in Home Economics.**

**\*\*\*\*\*Professional growth hours must be completed under the guidance of a Professional Growth Advisor. Call (209) 572-6080 for assistance in locating an advisor.**

This matrix was prepared by the Child Development Training Consortium. To obtain a permit application, visit our website at: [www.childdevelopment.org](http://www.childdevelopment.org) or call (209) 572-6080.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON REVERSE. SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.