

Early Childhood Education

About this Program

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) program is a career technology program, which was designed for prospective early childhood teachers or students who would like to pursue a career working with children. The ECE provides the knowledge and skills necessary for entry level through the National Child Development Associate. The primary purpose of the ECE program is to provide students with a strong foundation in Early Childhood Education theory and best practices. The students construct knowledge and gain meaning, while applying new skills in our onsite Early Learning Lab, the Littlest Cowboys Preschool. The learning lab is an integral part of the program in which students gain real world experience, industry skills and employability skills, therefore for preparing them for the 21st century workforce.



Program Structure

The ECE program is structured into two main components:

- 1. ECE Theory:** Students are instructed in current and relevant Early Childhood best practices, child development, classroom management, guidance techniques, and rules and regulations. The goal of ECE theory is to prepare students for the workforce while building a solid foundation and understanding of how children grow and develop as well as teaching, nurturing and caring for children ages birth to five.
- 2. Early Learning Lab:** Students work in the on campus Early Learning Lab. When working in the Early Learning Lab students gain hands-on experience while applying ECE theory and best practices. In addition, students create and implement daily lesson plans/ learning activities as well as plan and implement family events.



Courses

The ECE program consists of 5 courses:

- Early Childhood Education 1 (84051100)
- Early Childhood Education (84051200)
- Early Childhood Education 3 (84051300)*
- Early Childhood Education 4 (84051400)*
- Directed Studies (85001000)

These courses require registering for state and national certifications in early childhood, testing at an off-site location and volunteer hours in the ELL each year for certification.

The courses total a minimum of 600 Hours

- 120 hours of classroom instruction
- 480 hours of direct work with children five years of age and under

Through this program students can potentially graduate with the following:

- ECPC State Certification
- CDA National Certification
- American Red Cross CPR Certification
- ECE Industry Certification Honor Cord

