

Early Childhood Education

Why should I major in Early Childhood Education?

Picture yourself in a classroom helping young children learn and grow through hands-on experiences. Research shows young children benefit from well-planned and intentionally implemented experiences that support and challenge them. This program provides students with a strong general education foundation along with a solid foundation of knowledge, field experiences, and strategies for multiple roles within the field of early childhood education. The curriculum is structured so that students leave Iowa Western prepared to excel in a range of responsibilities – from curriculum planning to guiding children in a group setting.



What type of degree would I earn at Iowa Western if I enroll in this program?

Graduates of this two-year program are awarded an Associate of Arts degree.

If I major in Early Childhood Education, can I transfer to a four-year college or university?

This program is designed to transfer to a four-year college or university. By earning your AA degree in Early Childhood Education, you will be able to apply your credits to a baccalaureate-granting institution and earn a bachelor's degree.

What is the job outlook for graduates of this program and what type of jobs will I be qualified for?

Choosing early childhood education opens the door to many possibilities. There is an increasing demand for early childhood educators in the public schools as well as private settings. Some students plan to transfer to a four-year college, heading toward teacher certification while others choose to enter the field working with children and families. After obtaining a bachelor's degree, the average beginning salary in the private sector is \$25,000 per year. The average beginning salary for an early childhood educator in a public school system is \$30,000 per year.

Program of Study

The Early Childhood Education program of study is designed for students who wish to become early childhood teachers in birth through grade three classrooms. The curriculum provides students with a foundation in best practices with an emphasis in planning, leading, and evaluating learning experiences through observation, discussion and active participation. Students apply research and theory by demonstrating newly acquired skills in the Laboratory School. The program is designed for transfer to institutions that offer teacher certification. Graduates of this program are awarded an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree.

RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCE

First Semester		Cr.
ECE 103	*Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3
ECE 170	*Child Growth and Development	3
PSY 111	Introduction to Psychology	3
ENG 105	Composition I	3
SPC 112	Public Speaking	3
ART 101	Art Appreciation <u>OR</u>	3
MUS 100	Music Appreciation	3

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Second Semester		Cr.
ECE 221	*Infant/Toddler Care and Education	3
ECE 133	*Child Health, Safety and Nutrition	3
ENG 106	Composition II	3
HIS 151	United States History to 1877 <u>OR</u>	3
HIS 152	United States History since 1877	3
ENV 111	Environmental Science	4

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Third Semester		Cr.
ECE 153	*Early Childhood Curriculum I with Lab	4
ECE 244	*Early Childhood Guidance with Lab	4
LIT 110	American Literature to Mid-1800s <u>OR</u>	3
LIT 140	British Literature I	3
MAT 157	Statistics	4
	Physical Science Elective	3

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Fourth Semester		Cr.
ECE 154	*Early Child Curriculum II with Lab	6
POL 111	American National Government	3
PHI 101	Introduction to Philosophy	3
MAT 117	Math for Elementary Teachers	3

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*Required courses for the program.

One elective must also satisfy the diversity requirement.

66 semester hours required

**For More Information,
contact the Admissions Office:
712.325.3277 or 800.432.5852, ext. 3277
or the Program Chair at 712.388.6811
www.iwcc.edu**