Early Childhood Education AAS

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Program Director: Deb Huestis

Program Website (https://gfcmsu.edu/academic-program/early-childhood-education/)

The Early Childhood Education AAS degree is offered onsite.

This program is designed to prepare students with the skills needed to be successful working with young children in infant/toddler and early childhood care educational settings.

This credential may lead students directly into the Bachelor of Science Degree in Teaching and Learning.

For more information on other degrees offered for Early Childhood Education, visit the catalog pages for the Early Childhood Education CTS (http://catalog.gfcmsu.edu/academic-programs/early-childhood-education-cts/) and Early Childhood Education CAS (http://catalog.gfcmsu.edu/academic-programs/early-childhood-education-cas/).

Outcomes

Graduates are prepared to:

- Know and understand young children's characteristics and needs.
- Know and understand the multiple influences on development and learning.
- Use developmental knowledge to create healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging learning environments.
- Know about and understand family and community characteristics.
- Support and empower families and communities through respectful, reciprocal relationships.
- Involve families and communities in their children's development and learning.
- Understand the goals, benefits, and uses of assessment.
- Know about and use observation, documentation, and other appropriate assessment tools and approaches.
- Understand and practice responsible assessment.
- Know about assessment partnerships with families and other professionals.
- Know, understand, and use positive relationships and supportive interactions.
- Know and understand the importance, central concepts, inquiry tools, and structures of content areas or academic disciplines.
- Use own knowledge and other resources to design, implement, and evaluate meaningful, challenging curriculum to promote positive outcomes.
- Identify and involve themselves with the early childhood field.
- Know about and uphold ethical standards and other professional guidelines.
- Engage in continuous, collaborative learning to inform practice.
- Integrate knowledgeable, reflective, and critical perspectives on early education.

Estimated Cost

Estimated Resident Program Cost*

Tuition and Fees	$8,523
Lab/Course Fees	$75
Books/Supplies	$1,110
Total	$9,848

* **Fall 2026 MUS Student Health Insurance Premiums may be changing. Please check the Health Insurance website (https://gfcmsu.edu/home/current-students/studentengagement/wellness/student-insurance/) for confirmed premium rates.**

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits	Grade/Sem
First Year			
Spring			
(Students who complete the first semester of courses are eligible for the Early Childhood Education Certificate of Technical Studies degree.)			
ECP 100	First Aid and CPR +	1	_____
EDEC 108	Introduction to Early Childhood Education +	3	_____
EDEC 130	Health, Safety & Nutrition in Early Childhood +	4	_____
EDEC 249	Infant/Toddler Development and Group Care +	4	_____
EDEC 251	Montana Preschool Teacher Education +	4	_____
	Credits	**16**	
Fall			
(Students who complete the first year of courses are eligible for the Early Childhood Education Certificate of Applied Science degree.)			
COMX 115	Introduction to Interpersonal Communication +	3	_____
EDEC 210	Meeting the Needs of Families w/ lab +	4	_____
EDEC 230	Guiding the Young Child with Lab +	4	_____
M 105	Contemporary Mathematics **,+	3	_____
WRIT 101	College Writing I **,+	3	_____
	Credits	**17**	
Second Year			
Spring			
EDEC 254	Infant/Toddler Evidenced-Based Practices and Assessment *,+	4	_____
EDEC 273	Early Childhood Curriculum and Environments I +	4	_____
EDEC 275	Early Childhood Integrated Curriculum and Environments II *,+	4	_____
Select one of the following:			
EDEC 247	Child and Adolescent Growth and Development +	4	_____

PSYX 230	Developmental Psychology +	3	_____
	Credits	**15-16**	
Fall			
(Students who complete the two-year program are eligible for the Early Childhood Education Associate of Applied Science degree.)			
EDEC 256	Infant/Toddler Family Partnerships and Family-Centered Interventions *,+	4	_____
EDEC 265	Leadership and Professionalism in Early Childhood Education *,+	4	_____
EDEC 268	Administering Early Care and Education Programs +	4	_____
Gen Ed Core	Elective in Music, Art, or Nat. Science	3-4	
	Credits	**15-16**	
	Total Credits	**63-65**	

+ A grade of C- or above is required for graduation.

* Indicates prerequisites needed.

** Placement in course(s) is determined by placement assessment.