

Early Childhood Education (512)

Licensure Requirements

This transfer program is designed for students planning to complete the first years of study leading to a baccalaureate degree and major in early childhood education or child development. To teach young children in Illinois public schools (birth to age 8), teachers must apply for educator licensure by the State of Illinois. To transfer into an approved baccalaureate program in early childhood education as a junior, students must complete specific requirements and a minimum of 60 semester credits. Since admission is competitive, completion of the recommended courses does not guarantee admission. A minimum grade point average for most universities is required for program admission. Possible baccalaureate programs may include:

- Early Childhood Education (Birth through Grade 2)
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Child Development
- Human Development and Family Studies

Highland Community College provides general education courses and some early childhood education courses for students interested in pursuing these areas. Many courses are the same for the different career paths; however, the number of hours required in certain disciplines may vary.

Students interested in the teaching profession should contact the Coordinator of the Early Childhood Program or a student advisor for up-to-date information regarding state requirements and senior institution admission requirements.

SPECIAL NOTES

Early Childhood Education

The recommended courses on the next page are intended to give students a general idea of course choices. Early childhood education majors are required to consult with the Coordinator of the Early Childhood Program, a student advisor, and/or the transfer coordinator to ensure proper course selection and program advising. Licensure requirements are subject to change due to legislation or Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) decisions.

Online Degree Option for Early Childhood

There is an opportunity of obtaining the AA with an ECE emphasis primarily online. Students interested in pursuing the degree online should contact the Coordinator of the Early Childhood Education Program at 815-599-3484 for further information.

Early Childhood Education (512)

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

About Our Program

This program is designed for the student intending to transfer to a senior institution to complete a baccalaureate degree. With the completion of the specified ECE coursework, students will also complete a Level 3 Credential certificate. Students will be eligible to receive a Gateways to Opportunity Level 3 Credential because the HCC Early Childhood Program is a Gateways Entitled Institution.

Program Outcomes

Students who complete this program of study will be able to:

- Interpret children's unique developmental patterns and identify supportive resources for children who may require further assessment.
- Differentiate instruction, strategies, materials, content, levels of complexity, and language to support diverse learning styles and abilities through incorporation of evidence-based practices, including universal design and children's interests.
- Create and supervise a safe and healthy learning environment that maximizes student learning.
- Use assessment results for the purpose of planning appropriate programs, environments, and interactions and adapting for individual differences.
- Create engaging environments that meet the diverse development and learning needs of each child.
- Demonstrate professionalism in image, behavior, and disposition.
- Demonstrate collaboration skills that are necessary to work together as a team.
- Recommend strategies to advocate for the field of early childhood and for the families including those that are culture and linguistic diverse.
- Develop lesson plans based on children's responses and provide different pathways based on children's needs.
- Revise and adapt strategies and techniques for facilitating meaningful inclusion of individuals with a range of abilities and experiences based on children's feedback.
- Provide developmentally appropriate activities to meet the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards.

Nature of Work and Employment

Graduates of four-year baccalaureate programs in this major are typically employed as teachers in preschools and elementary schools, parent educators, early intervention educators, child development specialists, child care directors, Head Start lead teachers, and employees in civic/social organizations.

Special Considerations

The listed coursework is a recommendation only. Students should check with a student advisor for HCC graduation requirements and specific university requirements in this major. ECE students must demonstrate good physical and emotional health as well as submit to and pass a background check before beginning fieldwork experiences with children.

Program Contacts

Call Highland at 815-235-6121 for the following program contacts:

- Scott Anderson, Vice President of Business, Technology, and Community Programs
- Melissa Johnson, Coordinator of Early Childhood Education
- Amanda Venhuizen, Student Advisor

Recommended Courses

The following are recommended courses for this major only. Students must still meet all requirements for the Associate of Arts degree (see page 56) in order to graduate from Highland Community College. For more information, please see your student advisor.

ECE	121	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3
ECE	122	Child Growth and Development	3
* ECE	123	Health, Safety, & Nutrition of Young Children	3
* ECE	125	Assessment in EC Settings	3
* ECE	202	Curriculum in EC Settings	3
* ECE	203	Home, School, & Community Relations in EC	3
* ECE	204	Exceptional Child in ECE Programs	3

Early Childhood/Education Options (select one)

* ECE	124	Literature for Young Children	3
EDUC	124	Diversity in Schools and Society	3
EDUC	224	Introduction to Special Education	3
EDUC	225	Educational Technology	3
* PSY	261	Educational Psychology	3

* Course has a prerequisite. See course description.

Early Childhood Education (703)

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

About Our Program

The field of early childhood education is filled with many exciting opportunities! Potential careers include working directly with young children and their families through teaching in public and private schools, Head Start programs, child care centers, and family child care homes. The program is committed to addressing the needs and interests of young learners of diverse ethnicity, race, socio-economic background and ability. There are opportunities both in the classroom as well as field workplace experience to practice skills learned. The field of early childhood covers children, birth through eight years of age.

At Highland Community College, we have a variety of pathways designed to support your professional growth. Whether you are interested in earning a Gateways Credential (<http://www.ilgateways.com/en/credentials>) or are planning to transfer to a four-year program, we have the courses and opportunities to meet your education and career needs. Our courses are designed around the following three Pathways: Direct Exit, Credential Continuing, and Credential Transfer.

The Credential Continuing Pathway is designed for students who are seeking employment and/or working in the field and who plan on progressing through each of the credentials with the goal of attaining their AAS. Courses are laid out in a four-semester sequence, with milestones of credential attainment marked along the way. This program contains 38 required ECE semester hours, 15 required related semester hours consisting of general education courses, and 9 ECE elective semester hours. The program of study must be taken in its entirety to meet degree requirements. Courses within the curriculum are based on the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, the Gateways to Opportunity ECE Competencies, and the Early Childhood Special Education standards. As a “blended” program, the courses integrate knowledge and effective practices from the fields of early childhood education and early childhood special education, which prepares students to recognize, support, and enhance the vast diversity of child and family development and learning needs. The early childhood certificates are wholly contained in the Early Childhood Education degree.

Each of our pathways is designed to support the attainment of Gateways Credentials. The Gateways Credential is recognized by the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and Development. Credentials are required for varied Circles of Quality in ExceleRate Illinois and can be used as a prerequisite for employment within early learning programs. To earn your Level 2-4 ECE, Level 2-4 Infant/Toddler, or Illinois Director Credential Level I at Highland Community College, you are required to follow a prescribed course of study. These

credentials promote access to varied career opportunities within the field, as well as opportunities to transfer to a four-year program to continue courses of study. Students interested in pursuing a Gateways to Opportunity Credential need to speak with the Coordinator of the ECE program regarding specific course requirements to qualify for credentials.

Program Outcomes

Students who complete this program of study will be able to:

- Interpret children’s unique developmental patterns and identify supportive resources for children who may require further assessment.
- Differentiate instruction, strategies, materials, content, levels of complexity, and language to support diverse learning styles and abilities through incorporation of evidence-based practices, including universal design and children’s interests.
- Create and supervise a safe and healthy learning environment that maximizes student learning.
- Use assessment results for the purpose of planning appropriate programs, environments, and interactions and adapting for individual differences.
- Create engaging environments that meet the diverse development and learning needs of each child.
- Demonstrate professionalism in image, behavior, and disposition.
- Demonstrate collaboration skills that are necessary to work together as a team.
- Recommend strategies to advocate for the field of early childhood and for the families including those that are culture and linguistic diverse.
- Develop lesson plans based on children’s responses and provide different pathways based on children’s needs.
- Revise and adapt strategies and techniques for facilitating meaningful inclusion of individuals with a range of abilities and experiences based on children’s feedback.
- Provide developmentally appropriate activities to meet the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards.

Nature of Work and Employment

Early Childhood graduates with an AAS degree are qualified to be employed as teachers and directors in child development centers licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Head Start, preschools, family child care providers, and in agencies providing family support. Career opportunities also include supporting those who work directly with young children in occupations that include administration, curriculum development, policy advocates and lobbyists, coaches and mentors, licensing representatives, and providers of professional development. Our state and nation are currently facing critical needs for well-prepared early childhood practitioners. Employment is projected to grow 10% from 2016 to 2026 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook). Graduates must demonstrate good physical and emotional health as well as submit to and pass a current background check.



Early Childhood Education (703)

Special Considerations

This degree does NOT prepare students for Illinois State Board of Education teacher certification and does NOT prepare students for transferring, though some general education courses are transferable. Some of the early childhood education courses will be transferable at some colleges. Please check with your advisor regarding specific requirements. Students must take either Introduction to Early Childhood Education (ECE 121) or Child Growth and Development (ECE 122) and earn the grade of "C" or better to proceed through the early childhood program. They must maintain a "C" or better in all early childhood courses to graduate. A workplace experience is required for successful completion of this program.

Program Contacts

Call Highland at 815-235-6121 for the following program contacts:

- Scott Anderson, Vice President of Business, Technology, and Community Programs
- Melissa Johnson, Coordinator of Early Childhood Education
- Amanda Venhuizen, Student Advisor

Required ECE Courses 38 Credit Hours

FALL COURSES

ECE	121	Intro to Early Childhood Education	3	
*	ECE	124	Literature for Young Children	3
*	ECE	125	Assessment in EC Settings	3
*	ECE	126	Observation & Guidance of Young Child	3
*	ECE	128	Practicum	2
*	ECE	203	Home, School, & Community Relations in EC	3
*	ECE	205	Intro to Infant/Toddler Care & Education	3

SPRING COURSES

ECE	122	Child Growth and Development	3	
*	ECE	123	Health, Safety, & Nutrition of Young Child	3
*	ECE	204	Exceptional Child in EC Programs	3
*	ECE	207	Math and Science for the Young Child	3
*	ECE	212	Early Childhood Assessment Seminar	3
*	ECE	202	Curriculum in EC Settings	3

Required Rel. Courses 15 Credit Hours

*	BUSN	125	Mathematics of Business	3
*			Communications (BUSN 141 or ENGL 121)	3
*	INFT	180	Introduction to Information Systems	3
*	PSY	161	Introduction to Psychology	3
		-or-		3
			General Education Elective	3
	SPCH	191	Fundamentals of Speech	3

ECE Required Electives (Choose 9 credits)

*	ECE	127	Music and Movement for Young Children	3
*	ECE	206	Creative Activities for the Young Child	3
*	ECE	208	Supervision & Admin of Child Care Prog	3
*	ECE	210	Legal & Fiscal Mgt of Child Care Programs	3
*	ECE	211	ECE Staff Management Practicum	3
*	ECE	209	ECE Internship	3
*	ECE	213	Inclusive Environment for Infants & Toddlers	3
*	ECE	215	Mentoring in Early Childhood	3

Recommended courses for specific credentials:

Infant/Toddler Credential Level 3-4 – ECE 213

Illinois Director Credential – ECE 208 and ECE 211

Total Credit Hours = 62

* Course has a prerequisite. See course description.