

Early Childhood Education (726)

Infant/Toddler Certificate

About Our Program

The Infant/Toddler certificate provides students with a specialized focus on the unique strengths and needs of infants and toddlers with particular focus on children and families that are culturally, linguistically and ability diverse. Students will study the comprehensive development of the young child, birth to three years, with a focus on understanding current brain research and best caregiving practices. Students will explore the process of designing infant/toddler environments that are individually, culturally and developmentally appropriate with focus on creating inclusive environments. This certificate is intended for students who already hold degrees or who have taken extensive coursework in other academic fields, but would like to build their knowledge and skills of working with infants, toddlers and their families.

Nature of Work and Employment

Infant/Toddler certificate holders work in licensed child care programs as teachers or assistant teachers or for home visiting programs such as Early Head Start or Prevention Initiative programs. Family child care providers are encouraged to use this program to upgrade their own training and preparation.

Special Considerations

Certificate students must demonstrate good physical and emotional health and submit to and pass a criminal background check. Students interested in pursuing a Gateways to Opportunity Infant/Toddler Credential need to speak with the Coordinator of the Early Childhood Program regarding additional requirements to qualify for credentials.

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

*	ECE	205	Intro to Infant/Toddler Care & Education	3
*	ECE	213	Inclusive Environments for Infants & Toddlers	3

Total Credit Hours = 6

* Course has a prerequisite. See course description.

Early Childhood Education (724)

Infant/Toddler Level 2 Credential Certificate

About Our Program

The Infant/Toddler Level 2 Credential certificate provides students with a specialized focus on the unique strengths and needs of infants and toddlers with particular focus on children and families that are culturally, linguistically and ability diverse. Students will study the comprehensive development of the young child, birth to three years, with a focus on understanding current brain research and best caregiving practices. The program is available for early childhood educators, parents, administrators, and health care professionals. The certificate is 21 credit hours, with all the credit hours applying to the Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education. The Illinois Gateway Level Infant/Toddler Level 2 Credential is designed to support movement through the state of Illinois Career Lattice. Gateways credentials are awarded and recognized by the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and Development. Gateways credentials are symbols of professional achievement and are embedded in the new quality rating and improvement system, ExceleRate Illinois. The Infant/Toddler Level 2 Credential expands on foundational professional knowledge, and supports progression to the Level 3 Credential or direct exit into the field.

Nature of Work and Employment

Infant/Toddler Level 2 Credential certificate holders work in licensed child care programs as assistant teachers or for home visiting programs such as Early Head Start. Family child care providers are encouraged to use this program to upgrade their own training and preparation.

Special Considerations

Certificate students must demonstrate good physical and emotional health and submit to and pass a criminal background check. To successfully begin the early childhood degree, students must meet the communication requirements. Students must take either Introduction to Early Childhood Education (ECE 121) or Child Growth and Development (ECE 122) and earn a 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 complete the certificate. A workplace experience is encouraged and may be made available.

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

ECE	121	Intro to Early Childhood Education	3
ECE	122	Child Growth & Development	3
*	ECE	123 Health, Safety, & Nutrition of Young Child	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	205 Intro to Infant/Toddler Care & Education	3

Total Credit Hours = 21

* Course has a prerequisite. See course description.

Early Childhood Education (725)

Infant/Toddler Level 3 Credential Certificate

About Our Program

The Infant/Toddler Level 3 Credential certificate provides students with a specialized focus on the unique strengths and needs of infants and toddlers with particular focus to children and families that are culturally, linguistically and ability diverse. Students will study the comprehensive development of the young child, birth to three years, with a focus on understanding current brain research and best caregiving practices. Students will research the process of designing infant/toddler environments that are individually, culturally and developmentally appropriate with focus on creating inclusive environments. The program is available for early childhood educators, parents, administrators, and health care professionals. The certificate is 35/36 credit hours, with all the credit hours applying to the Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education. The Illinois Gateway Level Infant/Toddler Level 3 Credential is designed to support movement through the state of Illinois Career Lattice. Gateways credentials are awarded and recognized by the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and Development. Gateways credentials are symbols of professional achievement and are embedded in the new quality rating and improvement system, ExceleRate Illinois. The Infant/Toddler Level 3 Credential expands on foundational professional knowledge, and supports progression to the Infant/Toddler Level 4 Credential or direct exit into the field.

Nature of Work and Employment

Infant/Toddler Level 3 Credential certificate holders work in licensed child care programs as assistant teachers or for home visiting programs such as Early Head Start or Prevention Initiative programs. Family child care providers are encouraged to use this program to upgrade their own training and preparation.

Special Considerations

Certificate students must demonstrate good physical and emotional health and submit to and pass a criminal background check. To successfully begin the early childhood degree, students must meet the communication requirements. Students must take either Introduction to Early Childhood Education (ECE 121) or Child Growth and Development (ECE 122) and earn a 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 complete the certificate. A workplace experience is encouraged and may be made available.

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 26/27 Credit Hours

ECE	121	Intro to Early Childhood Education	3
ECE	122	Child Growth & Development	3
*	ECE	123 Health, Safety, & Nutrition of Young Child	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	205 Intro to Infant/Toddler Care & Education	3
*	ECE	213 Inclusive Environments for Infants & Toddlers	3
*	ECE	128 Practicum	
		-or-	2/3
*	ECE	204 Exceptional Child in EC Programs	

Related Required Courses 9 Credit Hours

*		Communications (BUSN 141 or ENGL 121)	3
*	BUSN	125 Mathematics of Business (or College Level Math)	3
	SPCH	191 Fundamentals of Speech Communication	3

Total Credit Hours = 35/36

* Course has a prerequisite. See course description.

Early Childhood Education (723)

Level 2 ECE Credential Certificate

About Our Program

The field of early childhood education is filled with many exciting opportunities! 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 Direct Exit Pathway is designed for students who are in the field or seeking immediate employment and are pursuing Gateways Credentials to secure employment or progress within a current role. This pathway is designed with convenient on and off ramps – you can pursue a Level 2 Credential, for example, then later decide that you would like to attain your Level 3 Credential.

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 ECE Credential at Highland Community College, you are required to follow a prescribed course of study. Please be sure to contact the Coordinator of the ECE Program for further information about these credentials and required courses.

Nature of Work and Employment

Level 2 Credential Certificate holders work in licensed child care programs as assistant teachers. Family child care providers are encouraged to use this program to upgrade their own training and preparation. Our state and nation are currently facing a critical need 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).

Special Considerations

Certificate students must demonstrate good physical and emotional health and submit to and pass a criminal background check. Students must take either Introduction to Early Childhood Education (ECE 121) or Child Growth and Development (ECE 122) and earn a 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 complete the certificate. A workplace experience is encouraged and may be made available.

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

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

Total Credit Hours = 18

* Course has a prerequisite. See course description.

Early Childhood Education (713)

Level 3 ECE Credential Certificate

About Our Program

This program is for students who wish to qualify as an early childhood teacher or school-age worker (as defined by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services) in a DCFS-licensed program. In order to work as a state-licensed Early Childhood Educator in a school district, students must obtain a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. Persons desiring child care teaching positions must also have at least 1,560 clock hours of child development experience in a child care program licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Some of the required hours can be met in the Practicum offered at HCC.

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 Transfer Pathway is designed for students who are planning to transfer to a four-year university. This sequence of courses supports the attainment of the Level 3 Gateways Credential and the AA degree and maximizes the number of courses that will directly transfer to a partnering four-year institution.

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 3 ECE Credential at Highland Community College, you are required to follow a prescribed course of study. Please be sure to contact the Coordinator of the ECE Program for further information about these credentials and required courses.

Nature of Work and Employment

Typical job positions that program graduates may enter into include family child care provider, child care worker, child care assistant, nanny positions, and other programs serving infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Graduates plan and present learning activities for small children, observe and document children's behavior, and work closely with teachers, directors, and parents to promote the growth and development of

children. Our state and nation are currently facing a critical need 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). The certificate program is NOT recommended for those seeking leadership positions in early childhood programs, such as director, assistant director, and senior teacher.

Special Considerations

Certificate students must demonstrate good physical and emotional health and submit to and pass a criminal background check. Students must take either Introduction to Early Childhood Education (ECE 121) or Child Growth and Development (ECE 122) and earn a 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 complete the certificate. A workplace experience is encouraged and may be made available.

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 20/21 Credit Hours

ECE	121	Intro to Early Childhood Education	3	
ECE	122	Child Growth & Development	3	
*	ECE	123	Health, Safety, & Nutrition of Young Child	3
*	ECE	125	Assessment in EC Settings	3
*	ECE	202	Curriculum in EC Settings	3
*	ECE	203	Home, School, & Community Relations in EC Programs	3
*	ECE	128	Practicum	
		-or-		2/3
*	ECE	204	Exceptional Child in EC Programs	

Related Required Courses 9 Credit Hours

*		Communications (BUSN 141 or ENGL 121)	3	
*	BUSN	125	Mathematics of Business (or College Level Math)	3
	SPCH	191	Fundamentals of Speech Communication	3

Total Credit Hours =

29/30

* Course has a prerequisite. See course description.



Early Childhood Education (727)

Early Care and Education Certificate

About Our Program

The Early Care and Education certificate provides students with an emphasis on the unique strengths and needs of children from birth through age 5 with particular focus to children and families that are culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse. Students will study the comprehensive development of the young child, birth to five years, with a focus on understanding current brain research and best caregiving practices. The program is available for dual credit high school students, early childhood educators, parents, administrators, and health care professionals. The certificate is 14 credit hours, with all of the credit hours applying to the Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education. This certificate leads to an ECE Level 2 Credential. The Illinois Gateways to Opportunity ECE Level 2 Credential is designed to support movement through the state of Illinois Career Lattice. Gateways credentials are awarded and recognized by the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and Development. Gateways credentials are symbols of professional achievement and are embedded in the new quality rating and improvement system, ExceleRate Illinois. The ECE Level 2 Credential expands on foundational professional knowledge and supports progression to the Level 3 Credential or direct exit into the field.

Nature of Work and Employment

Early Care and Education Certificate holders work in licensed child care programs as assistant teachers. Family care providers are encouraged to use this program to upgrade their own training and preparation. Our state and nation are currently facing a critical need 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).

Special Considerations

Certificate students must demonstrate good physical and emotional health and submit to and pass a criminal background check. Students must take either Introduction to Early Childhood Education (121) or Child Growth and Development (ECE 122) and earn a 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 complete the certificate. A workplace experience is required.

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

ECE	121	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3	
ECE	122	Child Growth & Development	3	
*	ECE	123	Health, Safety & Nutrition of the Young Child	3
*	ECE	203	Home, School, & Community Relations in EC	3
*	ECE	128	Practicum	2

Total Credit Hours = 14

* Course has a prerequisite. See course description.