

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.

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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.