Early Childhood Education

Community and Technical College
Early Childhood Education (https://www.ctc.uaf.edu/programs/early-childhood-education/)
907-465-2800

Department Overview
The early childhood education program at the UAF Community & Technical College (https://www.ctc.uaf.edu/) offers certificate and degree programs that prepare students for a highly satisfying career nurturing young children. Programs are designed for students enrolling in college for the first time as well as for those who are educated in other subject areas but desire to retrain for employment in the early childhood education profession.

ECE F270: Practicum II
Due to the nature of the practicum course (ECE F270) and its recognition of meeting the capstone requirement for the A.A.S. degree, we are unable to grant credit for prior learning through the portfolio process or any process other than completion of the UAF course requirements. This course requires ongoing supervision and mentorship in an environment where skills and knowledge can be actively presented and demonstrated in a classroom situation with children. This course is available to students who are not physically in Fairbanks by coordinating with UAF faculty. We will help arrange the completion of this course in a distant location as needed.

Learn more about the Early Childhood Education (https://www.ctc.uaf.edu/programs/early-childhood-education/) program, including an overview of the program, career opportunities and more.

A.A.S. Degree, Certificate, Early Childhood Education
All courses are offered through distance delivery, both asynchronous and with audio or video support for the convenience of students. Face-to-face classes are scheduled in Fairbanks and around the state as needed. These Early Childhood Education programs improve the skills of those already in the field and prepare those seeking employment as early care and education teachers, K-3 teacher aides and childcare providers.

Graduates are in high demand and have a wide range of employment opportunities. They can choose to travel the world as civilian support for the military Child and Youth Services or stay in Alaska working for Head Start programs, child welfare agencies, recreation services, schools or child care programs. Diverse opportunities for employment include staff training, program licensing, and entrepreneurial initiatives serving children and families. Contrary to times in the past, graduates are now able to receive fair compensation including good salaries and benefits.

The ECE programs are for students enrolling in college for the first time as well as for those who are educated in other subject areas but desire to retrain for employment in this profession. Through coursework, including fieldwork directly with children, students gain the knowledge and skills they need to meet State of Alaska requirements for employment as administrators or teachers in licensed centers and as aides in elementary schools. Coursework also fulfills minor or concentration requirements for degrees in other disciplines. Students entering any ECE program should meet with an early childhood education advisor to discuss a specific course of study. The courses for the A.A.S. degree can be combined with other disciplines to make a specific focus on young children in areas such as science, movement, leadership, business or creative arts.

Minimum Requirements for Early Childhood Education degrees: Certificate: 34 credits; A.A.S. Degree: 60 credits

Occupational Endorsement, Nanny Caregiving
The nanny caregiving occupational endorsement prepares the student for work as a knowledgeable in-home childcare provider. Students who successfully complete the program will acquire the skills to support the development of infants and young children under their care to grow and thrive in a nurturing environment. The program includes a foundation in child development from prenatal through the elementary school years as well as coursework in curriculum development for various ages, safe healthy learning environments, culture and the young child, and positive social and emotional development.

The occupational endorsement was designed to enable students to complete their coursework in just two terms with careful advising. The program uses performance-based assessment rather than testing. The courses are available 100% online allowing students to work at their own convenience during the designated timeline of the course or with synchronous options. The nanny caregiving occupational endorsement serves as a stepping stone in the early childhood education profession.

Students who want to learn more can continue on to the certificate and further degree and career opportunities.

Minimum Requirements for Nanny Caregiving Occupational Endorsement: 20 credits

Minor, Early Childhood Education
The minor in early childhood education allows students to develop a foundation of knowledge and skills through coursework that includes an introduction to the early childhood profession and development of the child in their prenatal, infant and toddler years or in their preschool and primary years. Working with an early childhood program advisor, students will select the classes that are best for their interests.

This minor is a great choice for Bachelor of Arts degree students who need to satisfy their minor requirement, or for Associate of Arts students who want to explore early childhood education as an area of interest.

Minimum Requirements for Early Childhood Education Minor: 18 credits

Programs
Degree

Occupational Endorsement
- O.E.C., Nanny Caregiving (https://catalog.uaf.edu/endorsements/nanny-caregiving/)
Certificate

Minor
- Minor, Early Childhood Education (https://catalog.uaf.edu/minors/early-childhood-education/)