

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (AAS)

Degree: Associate of Applied Science  
Major: Early Childhood Education  
Emphasis: Early Childhood Education  
Program Code: 1394

## About This Major . . .

This degree is designed for students who intend to enter the workforce upon completion. This degree also supports students who intend to continue their education and obtain a Baccalaureate in Applied Science Degree. The program aligns with state requirements for early childhood teacher certification and childcare center director qualifications. This degree includes 15 hours of the Colorado Statewide General Education Core and meets 15 hours of the lower division general education requirements at most public institutions in Colorado.

Important information about this program:

- Students must pass a background check.
- Students must possess current First Aid/CPR cards.
- Students must create a portfolio following department requirements.

For more information on what you can do with this major, visit WCCC's Programs of Study page (<https://www.coloradomesa.edu/wccc/programs/>).

## Requirements

Each section below contains details about the requirements for this program. Select a header to expand the information/requirements for that particular section of the program's requirements.

**To print or save an overview of this program's information, including the program description, learning outcomes, requirements, suggested course sequencing (if applicable), and advising and graduation information, scroll to the bottom of the left-hand navigation menu and select 'Print Options.'** This will give you the options to either 'Send Page to Printer' or 'Download PDF of This Page.' The 'Download PDF of This Page' option prepares a much more concise presentation of all program information. The PDF is also printable and may be preferable due to its brevity.

## Institutional Degree Requirements

The following institutional degree requirements apply to all CMU and WCCC Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees. Specific programs may have different requirements that must be met in addition to institutional requirements.

- 60 semester hours minimum.
- Students must complete a minimum of 15 of the final 30 semester hours of credit at CMU/WCCC.
- 2.00 cumulative GPA or higher in all CMU/WCCC coursework.
- A course may only be used to fulfill one requirement for each degree/certificate.
- No more than six semester hours of independent study courses can be used toward the degree.
- Non-traditional credit, such as advanced placement, credit by examination, credit for prior learning, cooperative education and

internships, cannot exceed 20 semester credit hours for an AAS degree.

- Pre-collegiate courses (usually numbered below 100) cannot be used for graduation.
- Capstone exit assessment/projects (e.g., Major Field Achievement Test) requirements are identified under Program-Specific Degree Requirements.
- The Catalog Year determines which program sheet and degree requirements a student must fulfill in order to graduate. Visit with your advisor or academic department to determine which catalog year and program requirements you should follow.
- See "Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees and Certificates" in the catalog for a complete list of graduation requirements.

## Specific to this degree:

- Students must pass a background check.
- Students must possess current First Aid/CPR cards.
- Students must create a portfolio following department requirements.

## Essential Learning Requirements

(18-19 semester hours)

See the current catalog for a list of courses that fulfill the requirements below. If a course is an Essential Learning option and a requirement for your major, you must use it to fulfill the major requirement and make a different selection for the Essential Learning requirement.

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
<b>English</b>		
ENGL 111	English Composition I-GTC01	3
ENGL 112	English Composition II-GTC02	3
SPCH 102	Speechmaking	3
<b>Mathematics</b>		
MATH 107	Career Math (or higher) <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Other Essential Learning Core Courses</b>		
PSYC 150	General Psychology-GTSS3	3
or PSYC 233	Human Growth and Development-GTSS3	
Essential Learning Natural Science with/without lab		3-4
Total Semester Credit Hours		18-19

<sup>1</sup> Math 110 or higher is suggested, if the student plans on pursuing a four-year degree.

## Other Lower Division Requirements

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
<b>Wellness Requirements</b>		
KINE 100	Health and Wellness	1
Select one Activity course		1
Total Semester Credit Hours		2

## Program Specific Degree Requirements

(40 Hours - Must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA or higher in all coursework in the major content area.)

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
EDEC 101	Introduction to Early Childhood	3
EDEC 103	Guidance Strategies	3
EDEC 113	Infant and Toddler Theory and Practice	3
EDEC 122	Ethics in Early Childhood Education	1
EDEC 125	Science/Math and the Young Child	3
EDEC 205	Nutrition, Health, Safety	3
EDEC 238	Early Childhood Development 0-8 Years	3
EDEC 240	Curriculum and Development: Early Childhood	3
EDEC 241	Early Childhood Administration: Human Relations	3
EDEC 250	Exceptionalities in Early Education	3
EDEC 256	Working with Parents, Families, and Community Systems	3
EDEC 264	Administration in Early Education	3
EDEC 299	Student Teaching in Early Education	3
<b>Restricted Electives</b>		
Choose three credits from the following list of courses:		3
EDEC 100A	Parent Education and Infants	
EDEC 100B	Parent Education and Toddlers	
EDEC 100C	Parent Education and Early Preschool	
EDEC 100D	Parent Education and School Readiness	
EDEC 102	Introduction to Early Childhood Professions Lab Experiences	
EDEC 114	Introduction to Infant/Toddler Lab Techniques	
EDEC 126	Art and the Young Child	
EDEC 127	Music/Movement for the Young Children	
EDEC 196	Topics	
EDEC 230	Curriculum and Development: Infant/Toddler	
EDEC 237	Theories and Techniques of Social and Emotional Growth	
EDEC 290	Early Literacy for the Young Child	
EDEC 296	Topics	
Total Semester Credit Hours		40

## Suggested Course Plan

First Year		Semester Credit Hours
Fall Semester		
ENGL 111	English Composition I-GTC01	3
EDEC 101	Introduction to Early Childhood	3
EDEC 103	Guidance Strategies	3
EDEC 241	Early Childhood Administration: Human Relations	3
Essential Learning - Natural Science with/without lab		3-4
Semester Credit Hours		15-16
Spring Semester		
ENGL 112	English Composition II-GTC02	3
EDEC 125	Science/Math and the Young Child	3
PSYC 150 or PSYC 233	General Psychology-GTSS3 or Human Growth and Development-GTSS3	3

EDEC 238	Early Childhood Development 0-8 Years	3
EDEC 264	Administration in Early Education	3
Semester Credit Hours		15
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
MATH 107	Career Math	3
SPCH 102	Speechmaking	3
EDEC 205	Nutrition, Health, Safety	3
EDEC 240	Curriculum and Development: Early Childhood	3
EDEC Restricted Elective		3
Semester Credit Hours		15
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
EDEC 113	Infant and Toddler Theory and Practice	3
EDEC 122	Ethics in Early Childhood Education	1
EDEC 250	Exceptionalities in Early Education	3
EDEC 256	Working with Parents, Families, and Community Systems	3
EDEC 299	Student Teaching in Early Education	3
KINE 100	Health and Wellness	1
KINA Activity Course		1
Semester Credit Hours		15
Total Semester Credit Hours		60-61

## Advising and Graduation Advising Process and DegreeWorks

Documentation on the pages related to this program is intended for informational purposes to help determine what courses and associated requirements are needed to earn a degree. The suggested course sequencing outlines how students could finish degree requirements. Some courses are critical to complete in specific semesters, while others may be moved around. Meeting with an academic advisor is essential in planning courses and altering the suggested course sequencing. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and fulfill the requirements for her/his intended degree(s).

DegreeWorks is an online degree audit tool available in MAVzone. It is the official record used by the Registrar's Office to evaluate progress towards a degree and determine eligibility for graduation. Students are responsible for reviewing their DegreeWorks audit on a regular basis and should discuss questions or concerns with their advisor or academic department head. Discrepancies in requirements should be reported to the Registrar's Office.

## Graduation Process

Students must complete the following in the first two months of the semester prior to completing their degree requirements:

- Review their DegreeWorks audit and create a plan that outlines how unmet requirements will be met in the final semester.
- Meet with their advisor and modify their plan as needed. The advisor must approve the final plan.
- Submit the "Intent to Graduate" form to the Registrar's Office to officially declare the intended graduation date and commencement ceremony plans.
- Register for all needed courses and complete all requirements for each degree sought.

Submission deadlines and commencement details can be found at <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/registrar/graduation.html>.

If a student's petition for graduation is denied, it will be her/his responsibility to consult the Registrar's Office regarding next steps.