

EDUCATION: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, LIBERAL ARTS (AA)

Degree: Associate of Arts
Major: Liberal Arts
Emphasis: Early Childhood Education
Program Code: 2263

About This Major . . .

This degree is designed for students who intend to continue their education and obtain a baccalaureate degree. The A.A. is the appropriate choice for students, who will take upper division coursework in the arts, humanities, or social and behavioral sciences. The degree program includes the Colorado Statewide General Education Core and meets the lower division general education requirements at most public institutions in Colorado.

The Early Childhood Education Program provides students with a foundation for working with children from birth to age eight in a variety of settings. Our faculty offer one-on-one guidance for course selection, field placements, student teaching and employment.

With an increasing focus on quality early education, many organizations are requiring their employees to demonstrate a level of expertise provided by this AA degree. Our students complete their degree with a culminating student teaching experience giving them an opportunity to teach in a working classroom in the community for a semester.

Graduates of the early childhood program go on to be employed in large and small child care centers, open up their own home care centers, work in public school settings, or use coursework as a foundation to continue into Early Childhood or elementary teacher license education. In addition, our program aligns with state requirements for early childhood teacher certification and large center director qualification.

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

All CMU/WCCC associate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in specialized knowledge/applied learning, quantitative fluency, communication fluency, critical thinking, personal and social responsibility, and information literacy. In addition to these campus-wide student learning outcomes, graduates of this major will be able to:

1. Apply the National Association for the Education of Young Children principles and practices in interactions with young children, families and other professionals. (Applied Learning)
2. Utilize mathematical skills required to instruct young children. (Quantitative Fluency)
3. Demonstrate effective written communication skills. (Communication Fluency)
4. Demonstrate effective verbal communication skills. (Communication Fluency)
5. Analyze interactions and teaching experiences from personal journals/administrative evaluations to improve teaching practices. (Critical Thinking/ Specialized Knowledge)

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 or WCCC Associate of Arts (AA) degrees. Specific programs may have different requirements that must be met in addition to institutional requirements.

- 60 semester hours total.
- 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 grade of "C" or higher must be earned in all Essential Learning courses in order to be accepted for transfer under the Colorado Core Transfer Consortium General Education curriculum or gtPathways, Colorado's guaranteed transfer program.
- 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 15 semester credit hours for an AA degree. A maximum of 6 of the 15 credits may be for cooperative education, internships, and practica.
- 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 program:

- Students must have current First Aid/CPR cards.
- Student must create a portfolio following department requirements.

Essential Learning Requirements

(31 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.

A grade of "C" or higher must be earned in all Essential Learning courses in order to be accepted for the transfer under the Core Transfer Agreements.

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
English ¹		
ENGL 111	English Composition I-GTCO1	3
ENGL 112	English Composition II-GTCO2	3
Mathematics ²		
MATH 110	College Mathematics-GTMA1 (or higher)	3
History		
Select one History course		3
Humanities		
Select one Humanities course		3
Social and Behavioral Sciences		
Select one Social and Behavioral Sciences course		3
Select one Social and Behavioral Sciences course		3
Fine Arts		
Select one Fine Arts course		3
Natural Sciences ³		
Select one Natural Sciences course		3
Select one Natural Sciences course with a lab		4
Total Semester Credit Hours		31

¹ Must receive a grade of "B" or better and must be completed by the time the student has 60 semester hours.

² Must receive a grade of 'C' or better and must be complete by the time the student has 60 semester hours.

³ One course must include a lab.

Other Lower Division Requirements

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Wellness Requirement		
KINE 100	Health and Wellness	1
Select one Activity course		1
Total Semester Credit Hours		2

Program Specific Degree Requirements

(27 semester hours, must maintain a 2.50 cumulative GPA or higher in all coursework in the major content area.)

- Students must have current First Aid/CPR cards.
- Student must create a portfolio following department requirements.

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Core Courses		
EDEC 238	Early Childhood Development 0-8 Years ¹	3

or PSYC 233	Human Growth and Development-GTSS3	
EDEC 101	Introduction to Early Childhood	3
EDEC 113	Infant and Toddler Theory and Practice	3
EDEC 122	Ethics in Early Childhood Education	1
EDEC 240	Curriculum and Development: Early Childhood	3
EDEC 250	Exceptionalities in Early Education	3
EDEC 299	Student Teaching in Early Education	3
Total Semester Credit Hours		19

¹ For students who do not wish to pursue Director Qualification, PSYC 233 can be taken to fulfill the core requirement.

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Restricted Electives		
Select eight semester hours of the following:		8
EDEC 102	Introduction to Early Childhood Professions Lab Experiences	
EDEC 103	Guidance Strategies	
EDEC 114	Introduction to Infant/Toddler Lab Techniques	
EDEC 196	Topics	
EDEC 205	Nutrition, Health, Safety	
EDEC 230	Curriculum and Development: Infant/Toddler	
EDEC 237	Theories and Techniques of Social and Emotional Growth	
EDEC 241	Early Childhood Administration: Human Relations	
EDEC 256	Working with Parents, Families, and Community Systems	
EDEC 264	Administration in Early Education	
EDEC 290	Early Literacy for the Young Child	
EDEC 297	Practicum	
ENGL 240	Children's Literature	
Total Semester Credit Hours		8

Suggested Course Plan

First Year	Semester Credit Hours	
Fall Semester		
ENGL 111	English Composition I-GTCO1	3
Essential Learning - Social and Behavioral Sciences		3
Essential Learning - Fine Arts		3
KINA Activity		1
Essential Learning - History		3
EDEC 101	Introduction to Early Childhood	3
Semester Credit Hours		16
Spring Semester		
ENGL 112	English Composition II-GTCO2	3
EDEC 122	Ethics in Early Childhood Education	1
EDEC 240	Curriculum and Development: Early Childhood	3
KINE 100	Health and Wellness	1
Early Childhood Education Restricted Elective		3
EDEC 238	Early Childhood Development 0-8 Years	3
or PSYC 233	or Human Growth and Development-GTSS3	
Semester Credit Hours		14

Second Year**Fall Semester**

Essential Learning - Natural Science with Lab	4
EDEC 113 Infant and Toddler Theory and Practice	3
Essential Learning - Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
MATH 110 College Mathematics-GTMA1	3
Early Childhood Education Restricted Elective	3
Semester Credit Hours	16

Spring Semester

EDEC 299 Student Teaching in Early Education	3
EDEC 250 Exceptionalities in Early Education	3
Essential Learning - Natural Science	3
Essential Learning - Humanities	3
Early Childhood Education Restricted Elective	2
Semester Credit Hours	14
Total Semester Credit Hours	60

Students that intend to continue with Colorado Mesa University should take ESSL 290 and ESSL 200 during the final semester of their Associate of Arts work.

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.