

EDUCATION: EARLY CHILDHOOD

Program Description

Bachelor of Arts

The Early Childhood Special Education program provides teacher education candidates with a broad content knowledge and prepares them as teachers for early childhood including preschool through second/third grade (birth to age 8) in an inclusive setting. Graduates from the bachelor's program are qualified to receive a Colorado Initial Teaching License in Early Childhood (EC-Age 8) and an endorsement in Early Childhood Special Education (EC-Age 8). As a student, you will gradually accumulate over 200 hours of classroom experience before beginning student teaching. School districts throughout western Colorado provide opportunities to gain experience with children of all ages and backgrounds in a variety of school settings. A minimum of 60 credit hours of essential learning and foundation coursework must be completed with a minimum GPA of 2.80 before a candidate may apply for admission to the Center for Teacher Education program. Please see the Teacher Education Admission Packet for further information on admissions criteria.

Associate of Arts

The early childhood certificate program prepares students for careers in licensed early childhood care and education programs and enables students to meet the educational qualifications of the Colorado Department of Human Services. Students who wish to work in licensed early childhood classrooms may complete the director or teacher sequence and then continue on to earn an Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education. Career options include opportunities in childcare centers and preschools.

The Associate of Arts (AA) with an early childhood education emphasis 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 the AA degree. Our students complete their degree with a culminating student teaching experience giving them an opportunity to teach in a preschool classroom for a semester. Graduates of the early childhood program are employed in large and small child care centers, operate their own home care centers, work in other school settings, or use coursework as a foundation to continue into elementary education. In addition, the program aligns with state requirements for early childhood teacher certification and large center director qualification.

Special Requirements

Study directed toward the Associate of Arts degree may serve as a basis for the Bachelor of Arts degree with elementary education licensure. Programs of study are sequential and advanced planning is necessary for an efficient transition from an associate program to a baccalaureate program. Faculty advisors assist students in planning programs to meet requirements. Students seeking childcare center director qualification should meet with an advisor in order to meet specific certification requirements.

Contact Information

Office of Student Services
WCCC, Bishop B102
2508 Blichmann Avenue
970.255.2670

–or–

Center for Teacher Education

Dominguez Hall 109L

970.248.1786

Associates

- Education: Early Childhood Education, Liberal Arts (AA) (<http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/education-early-childhood/early-childhood-education-liberal-arts-aa>)

Bachelors/Minors

- Education: Early Childhood Special Education, Early Childhood Education (BA) (<http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/education-early-childhood/early-childhood-special-education-education-early-childhood-ba>)

Certificates

- Education: Early Childhood Education Director (Technical Certificate) (<http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/education-early-childhood/director-education-early-childhood-technical-certificate>)
- Education: Early Childhood Education Entry-Level Teacher (Technical Certificate) (<http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/education-early-childhood/entry-level-teacher-early-childhood-education-technical-certificate>)
- Education: Early Childhood Education Teacher (Technical Certificate) (<http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/education-early-childhood/teacher-early-childhood-education-technical-certificate>)