

Early Childhood Education

The Associate in Science major in Early Childhood Education is for students who desire to work in early childhood education programs primarily serving children birth-age 5. Students in this program acquire the knowledge and skills required to work with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in community-based early childhood settings. Student may also work as paraeducators in the public school system or as licensed family child care providers. Each early childhood course requires field experience hours so that the student can gain practice in working directly with children. Students complete a total of 100 pre-practicum field experience hours and also complete a 200 hour practicum experience in an NAEYC accredited center or other approved classroom. Connecticut residents earning the AS in ECE are also eligible to earn the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Early Childhood Teacher Credential- Level A- by directly applying to OEC once the degree is earned.

This degree requires a minimum of 60 credits. All major courses must be completed with a grade of C or above and students must successfully complete six key assessments to graduate with this major. Key Assessments are included as course assignments and demonstrate that the student has met the required competencies. Charter Oak State College uses the 'Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators' to prepare teachers to work in the field.

Students early childhood credits transferred to this major from another college are required to have all Charter Oak State College Key Assessments on file prior to graduation from the college.

In order to earn an Associate's degree at Charter Oak, all Major, General Education, Liberal Arts, and elective credit must equal 60 or more credits.

Major Requirements

ECE 101: Intro to Early Childhood Education	3 cr
ECE 176: Health, Safety & Nutrition: Birth to Eight	3 cr
ECE 205: Diversity & Ethics in Early Childhood	3 cr
ECE 210: Observation & Assessment in Early Childhood Programs	3 cr
ECE 217: The Exceptional Learner	3 cr
ECE 222 Curriculum for Young Children: Methods & Techniques	3 cr
OR	
ECE 261: Infant/Toddler Care: Methods and Techniques	
ECE 231: Early Language & Literacy Development	3 cr
ECE 247: Child Development: Birth to Eight	3 cr
ECE 299: Early Childhood Education Practicum	6 cr

Prerequisite:

- PSY 101: Introduction to Psychology

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete an Associates of Science in Early Childhood Education will:

- understand child development and how children learn, and use this knowledge to design developmentally appropriate experiences for young children (Standard 1);
- know and understand the value and diversity of families, collaborate with families as partners, and use community resources to support young children's learning and development (Standard 2);
- understand the purposes and uses of assessment, how to observe & document children's development, and how to use this information to inform work with young children (Standard 3);
- demonstrate dispositions for working with young children and their families and understand how to use teaching strategies that meet the needs of individual learners and are inclusive, linguistically relevant and supportive of anti-bias teaching practices as well as principles of universal design for learning (Standard 4);
- understand content knowledge related to the academic disciplines and how to use child development to support children's learning in each content area. (Standard 5);
- identify as reflective practitioners in the early childhood field, follow ethical principles, communicate effectively as a professional, and engage in continuous, collaborative learning (Standard 6).