

Child Development Specialist

Associate in Applied Science in Occupational Development

Program Description:

The Occupational Developmental Degree in Child Development Specialist is designed to meet two major needs:

- (1) To provide for cooperatively sponsored educational opportunities leading to the Associate in Applied Science degree for students in approved apprenticeship training programs;
- (2) To provide a mechanism for Mountwest Community & Technical College to deliver educational programs to individuals employed in the Child Development field.

The United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeships and Training (BAT) identifies eligible apprenticeships. Components of the program include the following: general education courses, classroom instruction in child development, and on-the-job training.

Occupational Development students must meet all admission and performance standards. Credits earned through either approved apprenticeship programs or through industry-based education and training programs will not be added to the students' collegiate transcripts until they have completed three program credit hours from Mountwest Community & Technical College and have obtained at least a 2.00 GPA.

The Occupational Development Degree in Child Development Specialist will prepare the student for employment in daycare centers, Head Start Programs, and other early childhood learning centers. The Child Development Specialist graduate will possess:

- Supervisory skills.
- Computer software skills.
- Relevant essential math skills.
- Written and oral communication skills.

Career Outlook:

High replacement needs should create good job opportunities for childcare workers. Many childcare workers must be replaced each year as they leave the occupation to take other jobs, to meet family responsibilities, or for other reasons. Qualified persons who are interested in this work should have little trouble finding and keeping a job. Opportunities for nannies should be especially good, as many workers prefer not to work in other people's homes.

Salary Forecast:

Pay depends on the educational attainment of the worker and the type of establishment. Although the pay generally is low, more education usually means higher earning potential. Median hourly earnings of wage and salary childcare workers were \$8.06 in 2004. The middle 50 percent earned between \$6.75 and \$10.01. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$5.90 and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$12.34. Median hourly earnings in the industries employing the largest numbers of childcare workers in 2004 were as follows:

Other residential care facility	\$9.66
Elementary and secondary schools	\$9.22
Civic and social organizations	\$7.62
Child daycare services	\$7.56
Other amusement and recreation industries	\$7.34

Earnings of self-employed childcare workers vary depending on the hours worked, the number and ages of the children, and the location.

Major Code - C010 • Concentration Code – C012

FIRST YEAR	
<p>COMPONENT I - GENERAL EDUCATION^{1,3}</p> <p>ENL 111 Written Communication⁴3</p> <p>COM 112 Oral Communication⁴3</p> <p>IT 101 Fundamentals of Computers (EDGE)3</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">General Education Elective3</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Laboratory Science Course⁵3-4</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Quantitative Skills Course⁵3</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Social Science Course⁶3</p> <p>TOTAL CREDITS.....21-22</p>	<p>COMPONENT II - CLASSROOM TRAINING</p> <p>Occupational Component Elective²7</p> <p>Classroom Training in Child Development⁷20</p> <p>TOTAL CREDITS.....27</p>
<p>COMPONENT III - On-the-job training in child development^{8,9}</p> <p>A letter verifying completion of contact hours must be received by the Dean's Office, located in the Mountwest Community & Technical College Building, Room 110 prior to applying for graduation for credit to be awarded.</p> <p>MAXIMUM TOTAL CREDITS 12</p>	
HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION: 60	

Employment Opportunities:

- Child care
- Child care supervisor

Admission Requirements:

The college adheres to an open admissions policy which means applicants with a high school diploma or a GED are eligible for admission.

Earn a Degree Graduate Early (EDGE):

This program provides students the opportunity to receive credit for their high school EDGE courses.

Contact Information:

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1. Students may enter this program with no prior experience, but must complete approved Child Development Apprenticeship before being eligible for graduation.

2. Child Development Associate (CDA) may fulfill 12 credit hours of electives in Occupational Component Electives, otherwise contact advisor for selecting courses to fulfill this requirement.

3. Students must complete a minimum of 3 credit hours with Mountwest Community & Technical College to establish academic residency.

4. Fulfills Mountwest General Education and State Communication Skills requirement for Occupational Development Degree.

5. Six total Quantitative Skills/Laboratory Science Experience credits are required for Occupational Development Degree and General Education Core. At least one college-level mathematics course must be selected from: MAT 115, MAT 145, or MAT 150. Students may complete the six credit requirement with a second college-level mathematics course or select a laboratory science course from the following: SCI 110, SCI 120, or SCI 201.

6. To fulfill Social Science Course requirements for Occupational Development and General Education Core Degree select from EC 102, SS 201, SS 210, or SS 215.

7. Must provide documentation of West Virginia Department of Education and the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training "Child Development Specialist" completion to have credit recorded immediately prior to graduation.

8. A letter must be received from employer to verify this employment.

9. Maximum of 2,400 contact hours of on-the-job training, converted to credit hours on a ratio of 200:1, can be counted toward the A.A.S. degree.