Early Childhood Education, AAS

Program Description:

The Associate in Applied Science in Early Childhood Education degree consists of 60 credit hours and is approximately one half of the curriculum required for a Bachelor of Arts in Education. The degree is designed to allow the holder to serve in a support capacity including, but not limited to, facilitating instruction and direct or indirect supervision of pupils under the direction of an educator. This program is designed to allow a seamless transfer to the baccalaureate degree at Marshall University, or a seamless transfer to Bachelor of Applied Science.

Career Description:

Childcare workers nurture and care for children who have not yet entered formal schooling and also work with older children in before- and after-school situations. These workers play an important role in a child's development by caring for the child when parents are at work or away for other reasons. In addition to attending to children's basic needs, childcare workers organize activities that stimulate children's physical, emotional, intellectual, and social growth. They help children explore individual interests, develop talents and independence, build self-esteem, and learn how to get along with others.

As childcare workers gain experience, some may advance to supervisory or administrative positions in large childcare centers or preschools. Often, these positions require additional training, such as a bachelor's or master's degree. Other workers move on to work in resource and referral agencies, consulting with parents on available child services. A few workers become involved in policy or advocacy work related to child care and early childhood education. With a bachelor's degree, workers may become preschool teachers or become certified to teach in public or private schools. Some workers set up their own childcare businesses.

Career Outlook and Salary Forecast:

For the most current information please refer to the Bureau of Labor Statistics "Occupational Outlook Handbook" found at www.bls.gov/ooh/.

Program Outcomes:

- Create healthy, respectful, and challenging environments for young children
- Build effective relationships with children and families that are respectful of various cultures and family systems
- Apply appropriate assessment tools to determine needs of young children and their families
- Implement meaningful curriculum that promotes positive development and learning for young children
- Advocate on behalf of young children and their families
- Exhibit professional conduct that reflects the standards of ethical behavior outlined in the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct

Admission Requirements:

Students seeking admission into the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program must meet with the ECE Program Director prior to submitting the application packet. This is to ensure that students receive current information regarding the program admission requirements and the criteria for selection. Application packets are available in the Liberal Arts and Transfer Studies Office, room 329. The following program admission requirements apply:

1. Completion of EDUC 101, EME 101, and EDUC 120 with a grade of "C" or better
2. An overall GPA of 2.5 or better
3. Completion of Federal Background Check.

Applications will be accepted beginning the first week of January of each year for the upcoming fall semester. Admission to the program will be granted starting in May of the year of application.

Contact information:

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Academic Year 2026-2027

COURSE	REQUIREMENTS	SEM	HRS	GR	SUBSTITUTE/REPEAT CRS	SEM	CR
COL 101	New Student Seminar		1				
MAT 120	Applied Professional Math[7]		3				
EDUC 101	Healthy Environments[1]	F	3				
EDUC 120	Foundations of Early Childhood[8]	F	3				
ENL 101	Written Communication[2]		3				
EME 101	CPR/First Aid[1],*		1				
			14				
EDUC 210	Observation Assess. Of Young Children[3]	S	3				
EDUC 215	Child, Family & Comm[3]	S	3				
EDUC 220	Infant & Toddler Development	S	3				
EDUC 225	Development of Young Children[3]	S	3				
ENL 102	Written Communication II[4]		3				
			15				
EDUC 230	Early Language and Literacy[5]	F	3				
EDUC 240	Child Guidance[5]	F	3				
EDUC 295	Early Childhood Curriculum & Methods[5]	F	3				
COM 112	Oral Communication		3				
PSYC 200	General Psychology		3				
			15				
BIOL 105	Human Biology		4				
EDUC 228	Early Childhood Special Ed.[5]	S	3				
EDUC 235	Early Childhood Adm. & Leadership[5]	S	3				
EDUC 299	Capstone[6]	S	4				
ART 101	Introduction to Visual Arts		3				
			17				

Hours required for graduation** – Minimum 61 hours

*Students must complete all EDUC courses with a grade of "C" or better to graduate.

[1] EDUC 101 has a co-requisite of EME 101

[2] ENL 101 has a prerequisite of ACT 18, SAT 480+, Accuplacer 250-300, or placed in ENL 101E. Students must earn a "C" or better in ENL 101 or ENL 101E to graduate.

[3] EDUC 210, EDUC 215, EDUC 220 and EDUC 225 have a prerequisite of completion of EDUC 120, EDUC 101, and ENL 101 with a "C" or better.

[4] ENL 102 has a prerequisite of a "C" or better in ENL 101.

[5] EDUC 228, EDUC 230, EDUC 235, EDUC 240 and EDUC 295 have a prerequisite of completion of EDUC 225 and ENL 101 with a "C" or better.

[6] EDUC 299 has a prerequisite of completion of EDUC 295 with a "C" or better.

[7] MAT 120 has a prerequisite of a minimum ACT Math score of 19, SAT score of 510 or Accuplacer 250.

[8] EDUC 120 has a co-requisite of EDUC 101