For students interested in working with young children, Prairie State College (PSC) offers two academic programs to prepare students to enter into the childcare field. The programs are different and students are encouraged to be careful to choose the appropriate program.

DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE (A.A.S.)
Child and Family Studies

CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT
Child Care Teacher
Early Childhood Education Center Director
Early Childhood Teacher Basic

CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AT PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE

Child and Family Studies
A.A.S. Degree

The Child and Family Studies Associate in Applied Science degree program is for individuals who want to work with young children in early care and education programs, human service organizations, or professional development services.

As an Illinois Gateways to Opportunity entitled institution, completion of course requirements for the A.A.S. degree can lead to an Illinois Early Childhood Teacher Credential 2, 3, or 4. Students who pursue an Illinois Infant-Toddler Teacher Credential 1 or an Illinois Director Credential 1 can complete the requirements for those credentials through Early Childhood Education elective choices. More information is available from the Early Childhood Education/Child and Family Studies Coordinator.

Please note: Students interested in teaching in the elementary schools in Illinois should enroll in the Associate in Arts Degree in pre-elementary or pre-early childhood education.

Students interested in pursuing the Level 1 Illinois Director Credential from the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRA) have up to two years following graduation to document 1,200 hours of early childhood/school age management experience. Either while earning their A.A.S. degree or following its completion, students must demonstrate they have made contributions to the profession.

I. General Education Core

19 credits

Area A: Communication

ENG 101 Composition I - with a grade of C or better 3
COMM 101 Principles of Communication 3

Area B: Humanities and Fine Arts

Select one course from Area B 3

Area C: Mathematics

MATH 111 Mathematics for Paraprofessionals 3
or
MATH 112 General Education Mathematics 3
or
MATH 115 General Education Statistics 3

Area D: Physical and Life Sciences

Select one laboratory science course from the courses for Area D 4

Area E: Social and Behavioral Science

PSYCH 101 Introduction to Psychology 3

Program Requirements

42 credits

ECED 103 Health, Safety, and Nutrition 3
ECED 104 Introduction to Early Childhood Education 3
ECED 115 Observation and Assessment of Young Children 3
ECED 120 Child, Family, and Community 3
ECED 130 Guidance and Classroom Management 3
ECED 205 Language Arts for Children 3
ECED 213 Multicultural Education 3
ECED 251 Curriculum Design for Early Childhood Programs 3
ECED 299 Early Childhood Education Internship 3
ED 101 Child Growth and Development 3
ED 212 Exceptional Child 3
ED 220 Children’s Literature 3
The child and family studies program offers a certificate as a child care assistant (33 credit hours). Students who have already completed 60 hours of college work may take extra courses in the program to earn additional certificates.

Select 6 credit hours from the following courses after consultation with program coordinator:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECED 105</td>
<td>Creative Activities for Children</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 108</td>
<td>Science and Math for the Young Child</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 110</td>
<td>Care and Education: Infants, Toddlers, 2-year olds</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 150</td>
<td>Introduction to Early Childhood Administration – Legal Requirements</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED 151</td>
<td>Introduction to Early Childhood Administration – Program Operations</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 152</td>
<td>Introduction to Early Childhood Administration – Facilities Management</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 217</td>
<td>Administration of Early Childhood Education Centers – Personnel, Families and Children</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 218</td>
<td>Administration of Early Childhood Education Centers – Practices and Procedures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 219</td>
<td>Applied Early Childhood Center Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 298</td>
<td>Administration of an Early Childhood Center Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program Total 61 credits

** Note: Students who plan to continue studies beyond the A.A.S. degree should substitute MATH 112 or 115 for MATH 111.

Child Care Teacher Certificate

This program teaches the practical skills necessary to provide direct care to young children in day care and preschool centers, home day care sites, and community-based centers. Students are prepared for employment as teachers and child care assistants, and other entry-level positions in the child care field.

Because PSC is an entitled institution, these courses can be used to meet Illinois Gateways Early Childhood Teacher credentials.

(According to the Department of Children and Family Service regulations, child care workers in Illinois must be at least 19 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED equivalency certificate).

Program Requirements 36 credits

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<td>Health, Safety, and Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED 104</td>
<td>Introduction to Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 115</td>
<td>Observation and Assessment of Young Children</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 120</td>
<td>Child, Family, and Community</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 130</td>
<td>Guidance and Classroom Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 205</td>
<td>Language Arts for Children</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECED 251</td>
<td>Curriculum Design for Early Childhood Programs</td>
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<td>or</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 115</td>
<td>General Education Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Students seeking a Level 2 credential should substitute MATH 112 or MATH 115 for MATH 111.

Program Total 36 credits

Gainful Employment Disclosure

The U.S. Department of Education requires colleges with financial aid eligible programs that "prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation" to disclose certain information about these programs. For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who have completed the program, and other important information related to the program, please visit our website at prairiestate.edu/ge. We hope that this information is helpful in making informed choices about your education.
Early Childhood Education

Center Director

Certificate
This program prepares students to meet Illinois Department of Children and Family Services requirements to be an Early Childhood Education Center Director. Students must also have completed two years of college credit. Since PSC is an entitled institution, these courses can be used to meet Illinois Gateways Director Credential 1 requirements.

Program Requirements 30 credits
ECED 103 Health, Safety, and Nutrition 3
ECED 104 Introduction to Early Childhood Education 3
ECED 120 Child, Family, and Community 3
ECED 130 Guidance and Classroom Management 3
ECED 213 Multicultural Education 3
ECED 217 Administration of Early Childhood Education Centers – Personnel, Families and Children 3
ECED 218 Administration of Early Childhood Education Centers – Practice and Procedures 3
ECED 251 Curriculum Design for Early Childhood Programs 3
ED 101 Child Growth and Development 3

Choose 3 credits from the following, based on recommendation of the program coordinator:
ECED 150 Introduction to Early Childhood Administration – Legal Requirements 1
ECED 151 Introduction to Early Childhood Administration – Program Operations 1
ECED 152 Introduction to Early Childhood Administration – Facilities Management 1
ECED 219 Applied Early Childhood Center Administration 3
ECED 298 Administration of an Early Childhood Center Internship 3

Program Total 30 credits

Early Childhood Teacher Basic

Certificate
This program prepares students to meet basic requirements for day care teacher approval. DCFS requires two years of college credit in any area including at least 6 hours in Early Childhood Education. Students completing this work are eligible for entry-level teaching in early childhood programs.

Program Requirements 6 credits
ECED 104 Introduction to Early Childhood Education 3
ED 101 Child Growth and Development 3

Program Total 6 credits

Find out more today by contacting
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