Child Development

A.A.S. Degree

The Associate in Applied Science degree in Child Development 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
According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment of preschool and child care workers is projected to increase through the year 2022. Program graduates teach and nurture preschoolers in child care centers, preschools, and family care homes. Widespread recognition of the importance of good early childhood education means that workers in this field play a valuable role.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

About the Curriculum

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.

Child Development Preschool 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

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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Note: Students seeking a Level 2 credential should substitute MATH 112 or MATH 115 for MATH 111.

Program Total 36 credits

** Note: Students who plan to continue studies beyond the A.A.S. degree should substitute MATH 112 or 115 for MATH 111.
PSC offers open admission that encourages diversity and admits all high school graduates or the equivalent.

Here’s how to start your college career at PSC:
• Provide a high school diploma or GED.
• Take the Placement Test or submit a copy of ACT scores.
• Meet with an advisor from Counseling and Advising to select courses. For questions, call (708) 709-3506.

PSC’s tuition is affordable, and financial aid is available through a variety of sources. Additional information at prairiestate.edu/finaid.

Gainful Employment Disclosure
Visit prairiestate.edu/ge for important information about our gainful employment programs.

Find out more today by contacting
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Child Development
(708) 709-3595
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