

Early Childhood Education

Overview

Combining theory and research, an understanding of faith development, and extensive practical experience, students are prepared to teach or administer a public or church-based preschool or childcare center, or to enter a graduate program in education.

Graduates with a B.A. degree in Early Childhood Education will:

- Demonstrate proficiency in developmentally effective approaches to teaching and learning,
- Positively influence children’s development and learning through appropriate and responsible observation, documentation and assessment
- Uphold professional standards and ethical guidelines to advocate for quality educational practices and policies,
- Model a Christian lifestyle that will create respectful relationships in support of families,
- Secure employment as a staff member in early childhood facilities, or be prepared for graduate studies.

Application Process

Students apply for admission during the fall semester of their sophomore year. (Application dates vary for transfer students. See department Chair for details). Students must complete an online Washington State Initial STARS course and register with the Washington Department of Early Learning as part of the application process. The student is responsible for any costs incurred in the application process.

Failure to complete the application process by the stated deadline will delay registration in further courses within the major. Students must be accepted into the degree program to enroll in upper-level courses in the major.

Major in Early Childhood Education (44 Credits)

ECED 110	Theory & Practice of Early Learning	[4]
ECED 210	Child Growth and Development	[4]
ECED 270	Practicum in Early Learning	[4]
ECED 303	Children and Nature	[2]
ECED 305	Children’s Language, Literacy & Literature	[4]
ECED 308	Administration & Management of Early Learning Programs	[4]

ECED 310	Diversity in Learning and Behavior	[4]
EDEC 360	Advanced Methods of Teaching	[2]
ECED 470	Field Experience	[14]
ECED 475	Applied Early Learning	[2]

Total Required Credits [44 credits]

Minor in Early Childhood Education (18 Credits)

18 credits

Required courses:

ECED 10	Theory and Practice of Early Learning	[4]
ECED 210	Child Growth and Development	[4]

At least 8 additional credits from the following:

ECED 270	Practicum in Early Learning	[4]
ECED 303	Children and Nature	[2]
ECED 310	Diversity in Learning and Behavior	[4]
ECED 305	Children's Language, Literacy, and Literature	[4]
ECED 308	Administration and Management	[4]
ECED 298	Special Topics	[1-4]

Certificate of Professional Studies (CPS) in Early Childhood Education

Overview

The Certificate in Professional Studies program is designed as a continuing education for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree. By combining courses in biblical studies and professional studies in a specialized field, students strengthen their personal faith and increase skills for professional leadership. The program can be completed as a full-time student in one year (two semesters), or may be completed on a part-time basis over a number of semesters.

The certificate program in Early Childhood Education specifically prepares students to apply skills in teaching or administration to a preschool or childcare center. Students devise their own program of study with the assistance of a faculty advisor. Most prerequisites for courses are waived for students in this program, with the permission of the course instructor.

The certificate is not a degree, but certifies that a student has completed academic study beyond a bachelor's degree. Courses taken in the certificate program are accredited and appear on a student's transcript as undergraduate credits.

Requirements

A total of 34 credits is required to earn a Certificate of Professional Studies in Early Childhood Education. Three components make up the certificate program:

1. Biblical Studies Component

At least 10 credits must be completed in biblical studies or biblical theology (courses generally designated RELI), providing a solid biblical foundation for the program of study.

2. Early Childhood Education Component

At least 18 credits must be completed in early childhood education courses. Six credits are required: ECED 105 and ECED 475. The remaining 12 credits are chosen from: ECED 110, ECED 210, ECED 303, ECED 301, ECED 305, ECED 308, ECED 310, or ECED 410.

3. Electives

Students take additional courses as electives to reach the 34 credits required.

Application Process

Individuals interested in applying to the Certificate of Professional Studies program must hold a bachelor's degree in any discipline prior to enrollment.

Application to the program is made by submitting an application to Trinity Lutheran College, as well as completing a departmental application for the intended area of study (each department creates its own criteria for admission into its program). Contact the Office of Admissions for more information.