

Program Overview

The demand for increasingly well-qualified personnel has been intensifying in the field of human services. Preschool, center-based care, family home child care, professional nanny, day camp, and before/after school care are no exception. Starting sample salaries are listed below:

Preschool/child care aide or assistant	\$7.75-\$8.50/hr.
Preschool/child care teacher	\$9-\$11/hour
Preschool/child care director	\$19,000 and up/year

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) licensing standards for the State of Illinois sets the qualifications for preschool and child care teachers.

Currently the minimum requirements to be teacher qualified include:

- 60 college credits with six of those credits directly related to early childhood education or child development from birth to age eight.
- or**
- 30 college credits with six of those credits directly related to early childhood education or child development from birth to age eight, and one year (1,560 clock hours) of experience in a licensed pre-school, child care center, or kindergarten.

To be director qualified, the requirements include:

- You must be at least 21 years of age
- 60 college credits with 18 of those credits in courses directly related to early childhood education or child development.
- or**
- 30 college credits with 10 of those credits in courses directly related to early childhood education or child development and proof of enrollment in college until 60 college credits have been achieved. A total of 18 hours in courses related directly to child care or child development is required within the total two years of college credits, plus two years (3,120 clock hours) of experience in a licensed pre-school, child care center, or kindergarten.

The state also requires each pre-school/child care teacher to complete 15 clock hours of workshops or in-service per year. MCC courses and workshops can be used to meet or exceed this requirement.

The above qualifications are the state minimum. At MCC, we encourage students to improve skills and understanding by completing one of the certificate programs or the AAS in ECE degree. We encourage you to meet with the Dean of Education to plan the most appropriate program of study.

The 32-hour certificate will appeal to those who have experience in the field or who have some college and wish to become teacher or director qualified by specializing in early childhood education courses. A practicum in the MCC Children's Learning Center or in an accredited/approved child care center is required.

The 12-hour mini certificate will appeal to those who already have a degree but now wish to become pre-school/child care teacher qualified or to those who have one year of experience in the field and some college and now wish to specialize in early childhood education courses to become teacher qualified. The mini certificate will also benefit those holding a CDA Credential who still need 12 credits to satisfy DCFS licensing qualifications for director.

You may also wish to organize 61 credits into an AAS degree in Early Childhood Education to enhance credibility when seeking employment. Degree completers also will meet the teacher recommendations of the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs.

Students interested in completing a transferable degree at MCC, as well as wishing to be pre-school/child care teacher qualified, may pursue an Associate in Science or Associate in Arts degree by choosing electives from the ECE offerings. The mini certificate would fit well within this framework. Some ECE prefix courses may not transfer to a four-year program. You should check with an academic advisor about the Illinois Articulation Initiative and determine if ECE credits from MCC will be accepted at a four-year college.

You may also check with the Dean of Education regarding the Career and Technical Education Initiative and high school articulation.

Note: Students will be expected to demonstrate SCANS SKILLS including use of resources, interpersonal skills, creativity, problem solving, reading, writing, and speaking.

Program Prerequisite

While no prior experience is necessary to enroll in this program, students are expected to have writing skills equivalent to ENG 095, reading skills equivalent to RDG 090, and math skills equivalent to MAT 072 or MAT 090.

The primary purpose of an Associate in Applied Science degree is to prepare students for employment. The AAS degree is not designed specifically for transfer; however, there are opportunities to apply some coursework or the whole degree to a Bachelor degree program. For more information, see an academic advisor and the Dean of Education.

Requirements for the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Early Childhood Education

Curriculum: OCC 320	Credit Hours		
General Education Core			
Communications 2 courses SPE 151 required	6	(3) ENG 105 Technical Communications or (3) ENG 151 Composition I	(3) SPE 151 Intro to Speech
Humanities & Fine Arts 1 course	3	Humanities <i>Select from the following prefixes or course numbers:</i> ENG (does not include: 105, 151, 152, 088-099) FRE GER HUM (3) JRN 152 Intro to Mass Communication (3) JRN 155 Newswriting (3) JRN 165 Intro to Broadcasting (3) JRN 170 Feature Writing PHI (4) SPA 151 Elementary Spanish I (4) SPA 152 Elementary Spanish II (4) SPA 251 Intermediate Spanish I (4) SPA 252 Intermediate Spanish II (3) SPE 155 Interpersonal Communication (3) SPE 161 Small Group Communication (3) SPE 265 Fundamentals of Oral Interpretation	Fine Arts <i>Select from the following prefixes or course numbers:</i> ART (does not include: 166, 290, 299) (3) DGM 167 Computer Graphics I (3) DGM 168 Computer Art I (3) HUM 150 Humanities Through the Arts (3) JRN 180 Intro to Film MUS (does not include: 100, 104, 160, 161, 162, 201-218) THE
Mathematics, Physical, or Life Sciences 1 course	3	Mathematics <i>Select from the following prefixes or course numbers:</i> MAT (minimum 100-level or above)	Sciences <i>Select from the following prefixes or course numbers:</i> BIO CHM EAS (3) GEG 101 Physical Geography (3) GEG 220 The Global Environment GEL (4) HRT 103 Intro to Plant Science (4) HRT 105 Intro to Soil Science PHY
Social and Behavioral Sciences 1 course	3	<i>Select from the following prefixes or course numbers:</i> ANT ECO (3) GEG 202 Geography of the Developed World (3) GEG 203 Geography of the Developing World (3) GEG 204 Economic Geography HIS PLT PSY SOC	

Program Core	37	(2) CIS 110 Computer Literacy (3) ECE 115 Early Childhood Education (3) ECE 120 Child Growth & Development (3) ECE 125 Nutrition, Health & Safety (3) ECE 131 Early Child Guidance & Observation (3) ECE 150 Child Study & Observation (3) ECE 155 Child, Family, Community Relations	(3) ECE 204 Early Childhood Language Arts (3) ECE 219 Early Childhood Science & Math (4) ECE 229 Early Childhood Curriculum & Activities (4) ECE 250 Early Childhood Practicum (3) EDU 253 Children with Exceptionalities
Program Electives Choose 9 credit hours	9	(3) ECE 118 The Professional Child Care Provider (3) ECE 121 Infant/Toddler Development & Care (3) ECE 209 Early Child Music/Rhythmic Activities (3) ECE 214 Early Childhood Art Activities	(3) ECE 234 Child Care Center Management (1-6) ECE 290 Topics in Early Childhood Education (2) HFE 151 First Aid & CPR Or approved courses from other disciplines
Total Degree Credits	61		

Other AAS Graduation Requirements:

- 2.0 minimum cumulative G.P.A. at MCC upon completion of program
- 15 semester hours of program specific coursework taken at MCC
- Completion of the Application for Graduation process (and fee)
- Completion of end-of-program assessment as designated by this department

Requirements for the Early Childhood Education – 32 Hour Certificate

Curriculum: OCC 321	Credit Hours		
Program Core	26	(3) ECE 115 Early Childhood Education (3) ECE 120 Child Growth & Development (3) ECE 131 Early Child Guidance & Observation (3) ECE 150 Child Study & Observation (3) ECE 204 Early Childhood Language Arts	(3) ECE 219 Early Childhood Science & Math (4) ECE 229 Early Childhood Curriculum & Activities (4) ECE 250 Early Childhood Practicum
Program Electives Choose 6 credit hours	6	(3) ECE 118 The Professional Child Care Provider (3) ECE 121 Infant/Toddler Development & Care (3) ECE 125 Nutrition, Health & Safety (3) ECE 155 Child, Family, Community Relations (3) ECE 209 Early Child Music/Rhythmic Activities	(3) ECE 214 Early Childhood Art Activities (3) ECE 234 Child Care Center Management (1-6) ECE 290 Topics in Early childhood Education (3) EDU 253 Children with Exceptionalities (2) HFE 151 First Aid & CPR
Total Certificate Credits	32		

Requirements for the Early Childhood Education – 12 Hour Certificate

Curriculum: OCC 322	Credit Hours		
Program Core	12	(3) ECE 115 Early Childhood Education (3) ECE 120 Child Growth & Development	(4) ECE 229 Early Childhood Curriculum & Activities (2) HFE 151 First Aid & CPR
Total Certificate Credits	12		

Other Certificate Graduation Requirements:

- 2.0 minimum cumulative G.P.A. at MCC upon completion of program
- For certificates of less than 12 credit hours, all required credits must be completed through MCC coursework. For all other certificates, one-half of the minimum credit hours required must be completed through MCC coursework
- Completion of the Application for Graduation process (and fee)
- Completion of end-of-program assessment, as designated by this department, for OCC 321, Early Childhood Education 32-hour Certificate

For more information, contact:

Dean of Education, (815) 479-7572