



# Early Childhood Education

Earn your B.S. in early childhood education from Northern Illinois University at the University Center at McHenry County College.

By studying early childhood education, you'll learn how to nurture and educate young minds during their most critical developmental stages. We'll prepare you to obtain your state of Illinois Professional Educator License in Early Childhood Education. Our alumni become teachers, child care administrators, family services workers, and resource and referral specialists. The average mid-career salary for graduates of this program is \$60,135<sup>†</sup>.

Our experiential and research-informed program will provide you more than 500 hours of direct experience and prepares you to:

- Teach birth- through second grade-aged children in Illinois public schools.
- Teach children with disabilities aged 3-6 with our Early Childhood Special Education approval.
- Teach children with diverse language backgrounds with our English as a second language (ESL) approval.
- Apply for the Gateways to Opportunity Level 5 Early Childhood Education (ECE) credential.

Our program is approved by:

- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
- Gateways to Opportunity.

## Let's get started:



Reach out to the University Center at McHenry County College (UC MCC) at **ucenter@mchenry.edu** or 815-479-7600 to make your academic plan.



Apply to NIU as a UC MCC transfer student at **niu.edu/apply**. Email **transfercenter@niu.edu** with questions about your application or next steps.



Explore financial aid options at **niu.edu/financial-aid** and complete your FAFSA at **fafsa.gov** using NIU school code 001737.

**You have future plans; we'll help you achieve them.**

NIU Office of Admissions:  
**transfercenter@niu.edu**  
**815-753-0446**

Chris Lowe  
Director,  
College of Education Office  
for Student Success at NIU:  
**coestudentsuccess@niu.edu**  
**815-753-5718**

University Center at  
McHenry County College:  
**ucenter@mchenry.edu**  
**815-479-7600**

Learn more  
about this program:  
**go.niu.edu/ug-early-child-ed**



Northern Illinois  
University

University  
Center

at McHenry County College

A.A.S. to B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Northern Illinois University at the University Center at McHenry County College

| Year One — Semester I (16 Hours)         |  |
|--|--|
| MCC                                      | NIU  |
| ENG 151 Composition I (3)                | ENGL 103 Rhetoric and Composition I (3)            |
| SPE 151 Introduction to Speech (3)       | COMS 100 Fundamentals of Oral Communication (3)    |
| ECE 115 Early Childhood Education (3)    | General Elective                                   |
| ECE 120 Child Growth and Development (3) | HDFS 230 Child Development (3)*                    |
| CDM 110 Computer Literacy (3)            | OMIS 259 Intro to Business Information Systems (3) |
| MCC 101 (1)                              | General Elective                                   |

| Year Two — Semester I (18 Hours)                     |  |
|--|--|
| MCC  | NIU  |
| ECE 131 Early Childhood Guidance and Observation (3) | General Education Elective                           |
| ECE 150 Child Study and Observation (3)              | General Education Elective                           |
| IAI Elective (3)**                                   | General Education Elective                           |
| ECE 204 Early Childhood Language Arts (3)            | General Education Elective                           |
| ECE 219 Early Childhood Science and Math (3)         | SEEC 343 Teaching Science and Math Children 5-8 (3)* |
| ECE 234 Childcare Center Management (3)              | Major Elective                                       |

| Year Three — Semester I (12 Hours)   |  |
|--|--|
| SEEC 201 Play Development and Early Childhood Education Services (3)           |  |
| SESE 423 Observation and Assessment in Early Childhood Special Education (3)   |  |
| LTIC 400 Introduction to Teaching Multilingual Learners (3)                    |  |
| LTRE 309 Emerging Literacy and Beginning Reading Instruction through Age 8 (3) |  |

| Year Four — Semester I (15 Hours)   |  |
|---|--|
| SESE 426 Working with and Supporting Families of Young Children with Disabilities and Special Needs (3) |  |
| SEEC 340 The Language Arts and Social Studies for the Primary Child (3)                                 |  |
| SEEC 382 Practicum in Early Childhood Education (3)   |  |
| LTIC 447 Assessment of Multilingual Learners (3)  |  |
| Elective (3)  |  |

| Year One — Semester II (16-17 Hours)                  |   |
|---|---|
| MCC   | NIU   |
| PSY 151 Introduction Psychology (3)                   | PSYC 102 Introduction to Psychology (3)             |
| IAI Math/Science (3-4) **                             | General Education Elective                          |
| ECE 125 Nutrition, Health and Safety (3)              | NUTR 405 Child Health and Nutrition (3)             |
| ECE 155 Child, Family, Community Relations (3)        | General Elective                                    |
| ECE 229 Early Childhood Curriculum and Activities (4) | SEEC 430 Preschool and Kindergarten Curriculum (3)* |

| Year Two — Semester II (16 Hours)          |   |
|--|---|
| MCC  | NIU   |
| ECE 250 Early Childhood Practicum (4)      | SEEC 282 Educational Participation in Clinical Experiences (3)* |
| EDU 253 Children with Exceptionalities (3) | SESE 240 Intro to Special Education (3)*                        |
| EDU 255 Diversity of Schools (3)           | LTIC 301 Teaching with Multicultural Perspective (3)*           |
| ECE Program Elective (3)**                 | Major Elective  |
| ECE Program Elective (3)**                 | Major Elective  |

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS COMPLETED AT MCC (66-67)

| Year Three — Semester II (15 Hours)  |  |
|--|--|
| LTLA 305 Language Development (3)  |  |
| SEEC 403 Primary Curriculum (3)  |  |
| SEEC 425 Developing Social/Emotional Problem-Solving Competencies in Young Children (3)  |  |
| SESE 424 Methods and Strategies for Promoting Development and Teaching Infants, Toddlers, and Young Children with Disabilities and Special Needs (3)                               |  |
| LTIC 420 Methods and Materials for Teaching Multilingual Learners in the Content Areas or LTIC 435 Teaching Multilingual Learners in Bilingual Programs: Methods and Materials (3) |  |

| Year Four — Semester II (15 Hours)                          |  |
|---|--|
| SEEC 485A Student Teaching in Preschool-Kindergarten (6)    |  |
| SEEC 485B Student Teaching in Primary (6)                   |  |
| SEEC 410 Trends and Issues in Early Childhood Education (3) |  |

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS COMPLETED AT NIU (57)  
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS FOR A B.S. DEGREE (120)

\*Must be completed as part of the AAS degree at MCC.    \*\*See MCC catalog or advisor for course options.    \*Data source: Steppingblocks, 2023.

Disclaimer: Completing the AAS provides compact benefits that satisfy NIU General Education requirements. Use this guide to plan your degree progress, but it does not guarantee program admission. Information was updated December 2024, this guide is subject to changes in the Undergraduate Catalog. Contact your MCC academic advisor for help.