

Program Description

The Early Childhood Education A.A.S. Degree prepares individuals to independently provide a healthy, safe, developmentally appropriate learning environment in support of families and children. The program meets current hiring standards of center-based childcare programs, Head Start, family childcare, and paraprofessional job positions. Enjoy the hands-on experiences on campus, access to latest research, and/or convenience of online learning.

Program Outcomes

By completing this program, students will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Integrate child development theory with appropriate practice in early care and education settings;
- Plan, prepare, and implement effective instruction;
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communications with families, coworkers, agencies, and early childhood partners;
- Incorporate and demonstrate diverse teaching and guidance strategies appropriate to addressing the needs of children, families, and communities;
- Plan, prepare, and implement developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant activities to nurture cognitive, physical, language, social and emotional development;
- Recognize the importance of play to healthy child development and incorporate play based learning into early childhood environments;
- Demonstrate the skills of observation and record keeping of child development and learning;
- Apply professional behavior in daily work with children, families, co-workers and the community;
- Create and consistently maintain an appropriate, safe, healthy learning environment for children; and
- Recognize ethical, legal and professional responsibilities.

Program Course Requirements

CDEV 1102	Intro to Early Childhood Education	3 cr
CDEV 1104	Child Growth and Development.....	3 cr
CDEV 1106	Child Health, Wellness, Safety, and Nutrition.....	3 cr
CDEV 1112	Child Behavior and Guidance.....	3 cr
CDEV 1114*	Diverse Children and Family Relations	3 cr
CDEV 1116	Integration of Play.....	3 cr
CDEV 2104*	Observation and Assessment.....	3 cr
CDEV 2106*	Creative Activities and the Learning Environment	3 cr
CDEV 2108*	Introduction to Language and Literacy.....	3 cr
CDEV 2116	Infant and Toddler Development, Learning, and Responsive Relationships.....	3 cr
CDEV 2202	Introduction to Special Education	3 cr
CDEV 2204*	Characteristics of Children with Autism, Learning Disabilities, and Emotional Behavioral Disorders.....	2 cr
CDEV 2206	Careers and Business Strategies in Early Childhood.....	3 cr
CDEV 2208*	Understanding and Planning Curriculum ...	3 cr
CDEV 2210*	Internship.....	3-4 cr

An associate in applied science degree requires a minimum of 15 credits selected from at least three of the ten goal areas of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC). The following course is required:

ENGL 1410	Composition I (Goal 1) OR	4 cr
ENGL 1422	Practical Writing (Goals 1,2).....	3 cr

It is recommended that students choose from the following courses to complete the MnTC requirement:

COMM 1430	Public Speaking (Goals 1,2)	3 cr
COMM 2420	Intercultural Communication (Goals 1,7)....	3 cr
MATH 1442	Mathematical Reasoning OR	
MATH 1470	College Algebra (Goal 4)	3 cr
PSYC 1423	Positive Psychology: The Science of Wellbeing (Goals 5,9) OR	3 cr
PSYC 2421	General Psychology (Goals 2,5) OR	4 cr
PSYC 2435*	Educational Psychology (Goals 5,7)	3 cr
SOCL 1401	Introduction to Sociology (Goals 2,5) OR	3 cr
SOCL 1472	Sociology of the Family (Goal 5) OR	3 cr
SOCL 2481	Race, Ethnicity, Oppression (Goals 5,7)	3 cr
Any Goal 2, 3 or 6 course	3-4 cr

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT - 60 CREDITS

**Denotes Prerequisites*

Program Admissions Requirements

The Early Childhood Education program requires students to pass a Minnesota background check to participate in all of the field experiences and internships. In addition, CLC is a member of E-LECT (e-learning for early childhood teachers), which offers an associate in applied science (A.A.S.) degree online. Talk with an advisor for more details.

Semester Course Requirements

Semester One (15-16 credits)

CDEV 1102	Intro to Early Childhood Education	3 cr
CDEV 1104	Child Growth and Development.....	3 cr
CDEV 1106	Child Health, Wellness, Safety, and Nutrition.....	3 cr
ENGL 1410	Composition I OR.....	4 cr
ENGL 1422	Practical Writing	3 cr
Minnesota Transfer Curriculum courses		3 cr

Semester Two (15 credits)

CDEV 1112	Child Behavior and Guidance	3 cr
CDEV 1116	Integration of Play	3 cr
CDEV 2106*	Creative Activities and the Learning Environment.....	3 cr
CDEV 2206	Careers and Business Strategies in Early Childhood.....	3 cr
Minnesota Transfer Curriculum courses		3 cr

Semester Three (15 credits)

CDEV 1114*	Diverse Children and Family Relations.....	3 cr
CDEV 2104*	Observation and Assessment.....	3 cr
CDEV 2108*	Introduction to Language and Literacy.....	3 cr
CDEV 2116	Infant and Toddler Development, Learning and Responsive Relationships	3 cr
Minnesota Transfer Curriculum courses		3 cr

Semester Four (14-15 credits)

CDEV 2202	Introduction to Special Education	3 cr
CDEV 2204*	Characteristics of Children with Autism, Learning Disabilities, and Emotional Behavioral Disorders.....	2 cr
CDEV 2208*	Understanding and Planning Curriculum	3 cr
CDEV 2210*	Internship.....	3-4 cr
Minnesota Transfer Curriculum courses		3 cr

Course Prerequisites

Some courses may require appropriate test scores or completion of basic math, basic English and/or reading courses with a “C” or better. CLC utilizes a multiple measure approach for placement which may include high school MCA, SAT, ACT scores in addition to high school GPAs. For insurance purposes, internships may require that students be 18 years old.

Career Opportunities

This program will prepare students for a wide range of careers which may include Early Head Start Teacher, Food Program Monitor, RBPD (Relationship-based Professional Development) Specialist, Home Visitor, Achieve Trainer I, Public School Paraprofessional or Teacher’s Aide, School Age Childcare Provider. Graduates are prepared to work as a teacher in child care centers, Head Start programs, paraprofessionals, preschools, family childcare and after school programs.

Graduation Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must meet the following conditions in order to graduate:

1. College Cumulative GPA Requirement: cumulative grade point average (GPA) of credits attempted and completed at CLC must be at least 2.0;
2. College Technical Core GPA Requirement: cumulative GPA of credits attempted and completed towards the technical core of the diploma or degree must be at least 2.0;
3. Residency Requirement: students must complete 25% of their credits at Central Lakes College.