EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Early Childhood Education Program at Santa Barbara City College centers around the continuing experience of supervised teaching, combined with intensive classroom instruction. Basic principles of early childhood education, including curriculum for preschools, school age programs and care-giving for infant centers, are introduced. In-depth study of observation, assessment, health, safety and nutrition are also introduced.

Throughout, there is considerable emphasis placed on developing professional interaction styles consistent with fostering positive staff relationships, communication and collaboration with parents, knowledge of community resources, and multicultural awareness of the diverse populations with whom the student will work.

The ECE Program is coordinated with the child development major offered by several state universities which dovetails, in turn, with undergraduate and graduate work leading to advanced degrees in Early Childhood Education.

Programs of Study

Associate Degree for Transfer


Associate Degree


Certificates of Achievement

- Early Childhood Education, Certificate of Achievement (C) (https://catalog.sbcc.edu/academic-departments/early-childhood-education/early-childhood-education-certificate-achievement/)
- Associate Child Care Teacher, Certificate of Achievement (C) (https://catalog.sbcc.edu/academic-departments/early-childhood-education/associate-child-care-teacher-certificate-achievement/)
- Diversity Issues in ECE, Certificate of Achievement (C) (https://catalog.sbcc.edu/academic-departments/early-childhood-education/diversity-issues-ece-certificate-achievement/)
- Infant/Toddler Development, Certificate of Achievement (C) (https://catalog.sbcc.edu/academic-departments/early-childhood-education/infant-toddler-development-certificate-achievement/)
- School-Age Care, Certificate of Achievement (C) (https://catalog.sbcc.edu/academic-departments/early-childhood-education/school-age-care-certificate-achievement/)

Credit Courses

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

ECE 102 Child, Family and Community (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Examines the developing child in a societal context, focusing on the interrelationship of family, school and community, and the importance of reciprocal relationships that support and empower families.
Transfer Information: CSUGE Area D7, IGETC Area 4G, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable
C-ID: CDEV 110.

ECE 103 Foundations of ECE I Principles (5 Units)
Course Advisories: ECE 102 and 120 or PSY 140.
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and ENG 103.
Hours: 180 (45 lecture, 135 lab)
Foundation course in Early Childhood Education. Emphasis is on developing skills and knowledge needed to work effectively with children, birth to age eight. Introduction to building relationships, developing guidance and supervision skills, observation techniques, curriculum planning, historical context, theoretical perspectives, professionalism and reflective practice. Requires 45 (3 hour shifts) of guided supervision in ECE lab.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable
C-ID: ECE 120, ECE-103.

ECE 104 Foundations of ECE II Practicum (5 Units)
Prerequisites: ECE 102 and 103 and 108 and 120 or PSY 140.
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and 103.
Hours: 180 (45 lecture, 135 lab)
Design, implementation and evaluation of developmentally appropriate curriculum for young children, birth to age 8. Research on brain development, language development, and cognition is integral. Professional skills of resume writing, accessing community resources for families and providing group times/experiences are developed. Coursework combined with a minimum of 45 days of student teaching, with each shift lasting 3 hours in an ECE lab setting.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable
C-ID: ECE 210.

ECE 107 Administration Of Child Development Programs I (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 98 and ENG 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Enrollment Limitation: Completion of 12 core ECE units as defined by Community Care Licensing plus 3 units of supervised field experience. Study of administrator’s responsibilities in various types of programs, including developing philosophy; selecting/supervising personnel; planning curriculum; programming for staff/families; complying with regulatory authorities; conducting business procedures; planning for facility, equipment and food; evaluating programs; effecting change through legislative process.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable
ECE 108 Creative Learning and Curriculum (3 Units)
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Overview of knowledge and skills related to providing appropriate curriculum and environments for young children. Examination of teacher's role in supporting development and engagement for all young children. Provides strategies for developmentally-appropriate practice based on observation and assessment across the curriculum, including academic content areas, play, art and creativity plus social-emotional, communication and cognitive skills.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable
C-ID: ECE 130.

ECE 109 Family-Teacher-Child Relationships (3 Units)
Limitations on Enrollment: Student must have completed 12 core units as defined by Community Care Licensing.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Establishing and sustaining effective relationships between teacher, families and child. Common problems handled between families and teachers; ways of distinguishing special problems requiring other professional attention; and supportive ways of helping families enjoy and appreciate their children. Includes interviewing, home visiting, parent education and family engagement strategies.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 111 Administration of Child Development Programs II (3 Units)
Limitations on Enrollment: Completion of 12 core ECE units as defined by Community Care Licensing plus 3 units of supervised field experience.
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 98 and ENG 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Explores leadership styles and skills, emerging issues in early childhood education, ethics, grant writing, advocacy and staff professional development for leaders of child development programs.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 115 Children's Literature (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and ENG 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Develops awareness of value and variety of children's literature by surveying traditional and contemporary selections, including poetry, fiction, non-fiction and folk literature from many cultures. Proposes criteria for literary/artistic evaluation, use and age appropriateness in selection. Demonstrates presentation techniques, including storytelling.
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area C
Transfer Information: CSUGE Area C2, IGETC Area 3B, CSU Transferable, UC Transferable

ECE 117 Adult Supervision and Mentoring (3 Units)
Prerequisites: ECE 102 and 103 and 108 and 120.
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and ENG 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Methods and principles of supervising student teachers, volunteers, staff and other adults in early care and education settings. Emphasis is on the roles and development of early childhood professionals as mentors and leaders.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 120 Child Growth and Development/Educators (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and ENG 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
History and current issues of early childhood growth and development, from birth through adolescence, are covered. In addition to theoretical ideas and observations of children, special emphasis is given to the child from birth to age eight in relation to cultural, gender, class and racial influences.
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area B
Transfer Information: CSUGE Area D7, CSUGE Area E, IGETC Area 4G, CSU Transferable
C-ID: CDEV 100.

ECE 121 Health, Safety And Nutrition For Young Children (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Introduction to the legalities, standards, policies and procedures, prevention techniques, and early childhood curriculum related to health, safety and nutrition. Key components that ensure physical health, mental health and safety for children identified, along with the importance of the collaboration with families and health professionals. Focus on integrating the concepts into everyday planning and program development.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable
C-ID: ECE 220.

ECE 123 Children with Special Needs (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and ENG 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Overview of information and strategies for early childhood educators in working with children with special needs. Topics include identification, assessment, early intervention services and curriculum adaptations, plus family resources and partnerships. Atypical development includes delays, disabilities and giftedness.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 124 Working With School-Age Children (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and ENG 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Introduction to the increasing role communities play in providing out-of-school services to school-age children. Features include planning and implementing curriculum, designing a safe environment, exploring developmental issues, administrative policies and procedures, identifying community resources, and establishing partnerships to ensure high quality school-age programs.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 128 Observation and Assessment (3 Units)
Prerequisites: ECE 102 and ECE 120 and ECE 108 and ECE 103.
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and ENG 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Provides theoretical framework for understanding the connection between effective observations and assessment in early childhood settings. Anecdotal records, rating systems and multiple assessment strategies are explored. Focuses on the appropriate use of observation and assessment to document growth, play and learning to join with families in promoting children's success.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable
C-ID: ECE 200.
ECE 129 ECE Special Education (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for English 098 and 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Examines the field of ECE special education. A variety of educational models explored, as well as specific disabilities. Current research and professional experience evaluated in terms of prenatal substance exposure, health and safety issues, and dealing with stress, grief and trauma.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 131 The Developing Bilingual Child (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and ENG 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Introduction to the range of development of the language of the developing bilingual child, with emphasis on language and effective domains. The influences of different methods of language acquisition, modes of instruction, environmental factors and strategies for second language acquisition are evaluated.
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area E5
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 132 Teaching in a Diverse Society (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for English 098 and 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Examines processes involved in human relations, as related to differences, and how these processes impact teaching, learning and interactions with young children and families. Self-examination, reflection and integration of practices to promote equity and how to best support children as they gain a sense of identity and become confident members of a diverse society.
SBCC General Education: SBCCGE Area B, SBCCGE Area E5
Transfer Information: CSUGE Area D7, CSU Transferable
C-ID: ECE 230.

ECE 136 Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders (3 Units)
Prerequisites: ECE 102 and ECE 120 or PSY 140.
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Overview of information and strategies for early childhood educators in working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Topics include identification, assessment, early intervention services, strategies and curriculum adaptations. Family resources and partnerships are emphasized.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 141 Development And Caregiving Of Infants And Toddlers (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and ENG 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Developmental stages of infants and toddlers and accompanying behavior, guidelines for health and safety, observation and caregiving strategies including primary caregiving, small groups, and continuity of care are covered. Development of optimal environment for child, parent and staff growth also addressed.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 142 Infant/Toddler Socialization (3 Units)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for English 098 and 103.
Hours: 54 (54 lecture)
Focus on developing trusting relationships between caregivers and infants/toddlers who are developing social/emotional competence and intellectual growth. Caregivers need to be aware of their feelings, expectations, cultural values and attitudes from their own childhood experiences.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 151B Leadership In Early Childhood Education (1 Unit)
Prerequisites: ECE 117.
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and ENG 103.
Hours: 18 (18 lecture)
Examines ways in which individuals working in the field of early childhood education can be successful by creating an environment in which trust and empowerment can flourish. Explores the distinction between leadership and management while emphasizing the value of character ethics over personality ethics.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 152B Guidance: Effective And Caring Approaches (1 Unit)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and 103.
Hours: 18 (18 lecture)
Designed to allow the ECE Department the opportunity to offer a variety of courses related to child behavior and development which reflect student interest, community need and current trends in early childhood education.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 152D Working With Aggression In Children (1 Unit)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and 103.
Hours: 18 (18 lecture)
The course is designed to allow the ECE Department the opportunity to offer a variety of courses related to child behavior and development which reflect student interest, community need and current trends in early childhood education.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 152E Children'S Sexuality (1 Unit)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and ENG 103.
Hours: 18 (18 lecture)
Designed to allow the ECE Department the opportunity to offer a variety of courses related to child behavior and development which reflect student interest, community need and current trends in early childhood education.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 153A Use Of The Community As Curriculum (1 Unit)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and 103.
Hours: 18 (18 lecture)
The course is designed to allow the ECE Department the opportunity to offer a variety of courses related to curriculum development which reflect student interest, community need and current trends in early childhood education.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 153G Quality Group Times (1 Unit)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and 103.
Hours: 18 (18 lecture)
The course is designed to allow the ECE Department the opportunity to offer a variety of courses related to curriculum development which reflect student interest, community need and current trends in early childhood education.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 153H Holiday Celebrations For Young Children (1 Unit)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and 103.
Hours: 18 (18 lecture)
The course is designed to allow the ECE Department the opportunity to offer a variety of courses related to curriculum development which reflect student interest, community need and current trends.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable
ECE 156B Issues In Parenting (1 Unit)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and 103.
Hours: 18 (18 lecture)
One of a variety of ECE Department courses on parenting and working with parents, reflecting student interest, community need and current trends in early childhood education.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 157C Child And Family Abuse: The Teacher's Role (1 Unit)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and 103.
Hours: 18 (18 lecture)
The course is designed to allow the ECE Department the opportunity to offer a variety of courses related to special, unique or very sensitive issues which reflect student interest, community need and current trends in early childhood education.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 157E Working With Challenging Families (1 Unit)
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and 103.
Hours: 18 (18 lecture)
Characteristics and dynamics of challenging families explored along with strategies for supporting healthy child development in non-ideal settings.
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable

ECE 290 Work Experience In Early Childhood Education (1-3 Units)
Limitations on Enrollment: 6 ECE units, according to Community Care Licensing.
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 098 and ENG 103.
Hours: 225 (225 lab)
May be taken for 1, 2, 3 or 4 units of credit. Maximum of four (4) units per semester for a maximum of sixteen (16) units. Consists of supervised employment for Early Childhood Education students whose career objectives, course of study and employment complement each other. Students must accomplish specific course objectives. Course restricted to 3 repetitions
Transfer Information: CSU Transferable