

Early Childhood Education

Associate in Applied Science Degree

Why Early Childhood Education?

The Associate of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education (AAS) provides the foundation for advanced study at colleges and universities in early childhood education. The curriculum is aligned with the AAS degree teacher preparation standards issued by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Council for Professional Recognition (CDA). Students will plan and implement quality, developmentally appropriate early learning programs for children ages 0-8 in support of physical, cognitive, and social emotional growth and development. Graduates of the associate degree program meet the educational requirements for child care center program directors as required by the Michigan Child Care Center Licensing Regulations. The AAS Degree requirements include 4 semesters/300 hours of practicum field experience in a variety of early childhood settings. A one-year, 30 credit certificate, with 90 hours of practicum field experience is also available, and a transfer degree for students wishing to further their early childhood studies.

Why Bay College?

The [Early Childhood Education program](#) at Bay College offers a mix of online-only and virtual hybrid courses, making it accessible for students from across the state of Michigan, and beyond. We offer both a 1-year (2 semesters) Certificate in Early Childhood Education and a 2-year (4 semesters) AAS Degree. In addition, articulation agreements with 4 year institutions make it possible for students to seamlessly transition into a Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education.

Accreditation

The Early Childhood Education Program at Bay College is accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Early Childhood Higher Education Programs of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1401 H St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005. The current accreditation term runs from January 2021 through July 2026.

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