

## **(F15) Certificate**

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This program aligns to the Gateways ECE Level 2 credential which includes completion of a high school diploma or GED.

The Early Childhood Education certificate program will assist individuals in securing the education and credentials needed to obtain employment in child care facilities. This certificate has been developed to assist persons to meet the minimal requirements for approval as an early childhood assistant.

### **Credential Program Description**

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Students enrolled in Early Childhood programs at Sauk Valley Community College will be eligible to complete credentials through Gateways to Opportunities state professional development system for ECE levels 2, 3 and 4. Benefits of this credentialing process increase a student's employability through ACCESS Illinois and makes students eligible for scholarship opportunities and wage differentials.

### **Work and Employment**

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The early childhood education program is designed to educate professionals for a diverse and challenging field. Employment opportunities for graduates of the early childhood education program are very positive, whether pursuing a career in group day care or preschool settings, or in family care.

### **Criminal History Check Policy**

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Illinois law requires licensed early childhood programs to conduct a criminal background investigation on applicants for employment. Employment of individuals who have been convicted of committing or attempting to commit offenses that may put children in harm's way is prohibited. Laws vary according to the agency and their licensing body.

All students entering the initial observation course must first submit to a criminal background check (CBC). You will be notified by the College of the fees, date, time and location of the finger printing process. In addition, students listed on the Illinois Sex Offenders Registry, Illinois Violent Offender Against Youth Registry, and the National Sex Offenders Registry will be denied entrance into these programs.

If any of the above returns with an incident "hit", you will be notified and will need to meet with SVCC faculty/staff who will review your results and review how it might affect your ability to participate in these programs. An adverse decision may be appealed through the institutional academic appeal process.

### **Program Contacts at Sauk Valley Community College**

Academic Advising, 815/835-6354;

Janis Jones, Assistant Professor of Education, 815/835-6410.

Major Field Requirements

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- ECE 114 - Child Care and Development 3 Semester hour(s)
- ECE 115 - Principles of Early Childhood Education 3 Semester hour(s)
- ECE 118 - Parent-Teacher-Child-Community Relations 3 Semester hour(s)
- ECE 228 - Child Health, Nutrition and Safety 3 Semester hour(s)
- PED 220 - Rhythms and Games for Children 2 Semester hour(s)
- PSY 103 - Introduction to Psychology 3 Semester hour(s)

Total Hours Required for Certificate: 17

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