

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

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 ExceleRate Illinois and makes students eligible for scholarship opportunities and wage differentials. **Students must earn a "C" or better in all ECE courses used to fulfill Gateways credentialing requirements.**

Work and Employment

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

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.

Students who perform classroom observations through coursework at Sauk Valley Community College may be required by the selected school/site to undergo a criminal background check prior to placement. Students may be denied at any observation site based on the results of that check.

Students who feel their criminal background may exclude them from observation or employment should seek counseling with SVCC faculty or advising staff early in their program to determine how it may affect their participation and eligibility.

Program Contacts at Sauk Valley Community College

- Academic Advising, 815-835-6354
- Beth Smaka, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, 815-835-6388

Total Hours Required - 18 Hours

Major Field Requirements

- ECE 114 - Child Care and Development (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 115 - Prin Early Child Educ (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 118 - Parent-Teachr-Child-Comm Relat (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 228 - Child Health-Nutrition-Safety (3 Semester Hours)
- PED 220 - Rhythms & Games for Children (3 Semester Hours)
- PSY 103 - Introduction to Psychology (3 Semester Hours)