

This program aligns to the AAS/Gateways ECE Level 4 credential.

The Early Childhood Education program provides the academic background and practical experience for people interested in careers in education, including infant, preschool and school-age child care in early childhood centers, family child care homes, parent education, and early childhood program supervision. Coursework focuses on theory, research and program practice pertaining to children prenatal to early school age. Students will have the opportunity to observe and assess children's behaviors and to work directly with children in a supervised setting. This program provides a comprehensive course of study, including physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of young children, curriculum development, literature and language arts, creative activities for teaching art, music, math and science, behavior guidance, health and nutrition, and one supervised practicum experience.

Credential Program Description

Students enrolled in Early Childhood programs at Sauk Valley Community College will be eligible to complete credentials through Gateways to Opportunities (Opportunity) 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 make 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 a group day care, preschool setting, 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 - 62-63 Hours

Major Field Requirements - 46-47 Hours

- ECE 109 - Found of Infant & Toddler Care (4 Semester Hours)
- 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 202 - Lang Develop in Young Children (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 207 - Math for the Young Child (3 Semester Hours)

OR

MAT 106 - Applied Mathematics (3 Semester Hours)

OR HIGHER

- ECE 228 - Child Health-Nutrition-Safety (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 240 - Observ & Assess Young Children (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 250 - Early Childhood Practicum I (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 275 - Curric Dev Early Child Classrm (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 102 - Computer Education for Teacher (3 Semester Hours)

OR

- CIS 109 - Introduction to Computers (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 210 - Diversity in Education (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 220 - Students/Disabilities School (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 221 - Children's Literature (3 Semester Hours)

OR

LAN 161 - Beginning Spanish I (4 Semester Hours)

OR HIGHER

- PED 220 - Rhythms & Games for Children (3 Semester Hours)

General Education Requirements - 15 Hours

- Communications (ENG 101 and COM 131 Required) 6 Semester hour(s)
- Physical Science (BIO 120 Recommended) 3 Semester hour(s)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (PSY 103 & SOC 251 Required) 6 Semester hour(s)

SVCC Requirement - 1 Hours

- FYE 101 - First Year Experience (1 Semester Hours)

Suggested Program

First Semester - 16 Hours

- BIO 120 - Environmental Health (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 114 - Child Care and Development (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 115 - Prin Early Child Educ (3 Semester Hours)
- FYE 101 - First Year Experience (1 Semester Hours)
- PED 220 - Rhythms & Games for Children (3 Semester Hours)
- PSY 103 - Introduction to Psychology (3 Semester Hours)

Second Semester - 15 Hours

- ECE 202 - Lang Develop in Young Children (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 275 - Curric Dev Early Child Classrm (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 210 - Diversity in Education (3 Semester Hours)
- ENG 101 - Composition I (3 Semester Hours)
- SOC 251 - Human Sexuality and Marriage (3 Semester Hours)

Third Semester - 16-17 Hours

- ECE 109 - Found of Infant & Toddler Care (4 Semester Hours)
- ECE 118 - Parent-Teachr-Child-Comm Relat (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 228 - Child Health-Nutrition-Safety (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 220 - Students/Disabilities School (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 221 - Children's Literature (3 Semester Hours)

OR

LAN 161 - Beginning Spanish I (4 Semester Hours)

OR

HIGHER

Fourth Semester - 15 Hours

- ECE 207 - Math for the Young Child (3 Semester Hours)

OR

MAT 106 - Applied Mathematics (3 Semester Hours)

OR

HIGHER

- COM 131 - Intro to Oral Communication (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 240 - Observ & Assess Young Children (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 250 - Early Childhood Practicum I (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 102 - Computer Education for Teacher (3 Semester Hours)

OR

CIS 109 - Introduction to Computers (3 Semester Hours)