

Academic Programs

Early Childhood Education: Educator - Certificate (F16)

This program aligns to the Gateways to Opportunity ECE Level 3 credential requirements which include 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 and/or schools. This certificate allows individuals to obtain greater proficiency in the areas of study required in the field of Early Childhood Education.

Credential Program Description

Students enrolled in Early Childhood programs at Sauk Valley Community College will be eligible to complete credentials through Gateways to Opportunity Illinois Professional Development System for ECE and ITC Levels 2, 3 and 4. Benefits of this credentialing process increase a student's employability 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 to Opportunity 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 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 - 30 Hours

Major Field Requirements - 24 Hours

- ECE114 - Child Care and Development (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE115 - Intro to Early Childhood Educ (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE118 - Parent-Teachr-Child-Comm Relat (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE207 - Math for the Young Child (3 Semester Hours)

OR

MAT106 - Applied Mathematics (3 Semester Hours)

OR HIGHER

- ECE228 - Child Health-Nutrition-Safety (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE240 - Observ & Assess Young Children (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE275 - Curric Dev Early Child Classrm (3 Semester Hours)

- PED220 - Rhythms & Games for Children (3 Semester Hours)

General Education Requirements - 6 Hours

- ENG101 - Composition I (3 Semester Hours)
- PSY103 - Introduction to Psychology (3 Semester Hours)

Suggested Program

First Semester - 15 Hours

- ECE114 - Child Care and Development (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE115 - Intro to Early Childhood Educ (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE118 - Parent-Teachr-Child-Comm Relat (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE228 - Child Health-Nutrition-Safety (3 Semester Hours)
- PED220 - Rhythms & Games for Children (3 Semester Hours)

Second Semester - 15 Hours

- ECE207 - Math for the Young Child (3 Semester Hours)

OR

MAT106 - Applied Mathematics (3 Semester Hours)

OR

HIGHER

- ECE240 - Observ & Assess Young Children (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE275 - Curric Dev Early Child Classrm (3 Semester Hours)
- ENG101 - Composition I (3 Semester Hours)
- PSY103 - Introduction to Psychology (3 Semester Hours)