ECED1 – Early Childhood Education

Health and Human Services

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2025
Program Outline Review Date: 2030-03-01

Program Area: Child Youth and Family Studies

Description:

The Early Childhood Education Certificate and Diploma Program provides students the necessary skills and knowledge to work with young children and their families in diverse settings. Our program uses a play-based approach, with a focus on positive assets and strength-based perspectives. Practicums are designed to give students the opportunity to apply theory into their practice in early childhood settings. The Diploma program allows for specialization as either an Infant/Toddler Educator or a Special Needs Educator.

Areas of learning include lifespan development; building relationships with children and families; creating curriculum; guiding behaviours; health, safety and nutrition; theories, ethics and philosophies; interpersonal and professional communication; observing and recording; and inclusive and diverse practices.

Graduates are prepared for employment as child care professionals in group care and education settings with children from birth to age 12. Examples of settings include group care, pre-school, family child care, BC Strong Start programs, infant development, supported child development, Child Care Resource and Referral, Head Start, Community Action Program for Children, and literacy, behaviour and early intervention programs.

Certificate
The certificate is awarded upon successful completion of required courses listed in Year 1 of the program (first, second and third semesters).

Diploma
The Infant/Toddler Diploma is awarded upon successful completion of a certificate or equivalent and the required courses listed in Year 2 of the Infant/Toddler specialty (first, second and third semesters).

The Special Needs Diploma is awarded upon successful completion of a certificate or

equivalent and the required courses listed in Year 2 of the Special Needs specialty (first, second and third semesters).

Program Information:

ECE Certificate (1st year): can be completed in 3 semesters of full-time study (or a maximum of 3 years of part-time study) in the classroom, online or a combination of both. The ECE Certificate consists of 13 courses, as well as an introduction to practicum and 2 practicums (45, 190 and 190 hours each), for a total of 52 credits.

Credentials Granted:

Early Childhood Education Certificate

Minimum Course Grade: A minimum grade of C

Program Average: A minimum program grade point average of 3.0/10 (C average)

Delivery Methods: Online, Blended (Hybrid)

Credits: 52

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	615
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	425
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	1040

Admission Requirements:

- Earned a minimum grade of C+ (65%) in at least 1 of the following:
  - ENST 12 – English Studies 12
  - ENFP 12 – English First Peoples 12
  - ENGL090 – English – Provincial Level

Non-Academic Admission Requirements:

- Completion and submission of CYFS Application package
- Completion of immunizations, documented by the immunization form in the admission package, or completion of the immunization waiver form (lack of immunizations may impact applicant access to Practicum placements and employment opportunities following graduation).
- Good command of oral and written English language
- Solicitor General Criminal Record Check. Note: Conviction of a criminal offence may influence an applicant's access to practicum placements and employment opportunities following graduation.

Program Completion Requirements:

Year 1
52 Total Credits

- Complete all of the following

  Fall Semester
  - Completed the following:
    - CYFS101 – Inclusive Interpersonal Communications (3)
    - CYFS102 – Observing & Recording (3)
    - ECED105 – Developing Positive Relationships With Young Children (3)
    - ECED113 – Health, Safety and Nutrition (3)
    - ECED125 – Introduction to Practicum (3)
    - ECED129 – Introduction to Early Childhood Education (3)
    - ECED137 – Creating Curriculum With Young Children 1 (3)

  Winter Semester
  - Completed the following:
    - CYFS116 – Child Growth and Development (4)
    - ECED131 – Principles of Program Development (3)
    - ECED138 – Creating Curriculum With Young Children 2 (3)
    - ECED150 – Guiding Behaviours with Young Children (4)
    - ECED106 – Introduction to Working with Families (3)
    - ECED126 – Practicum 1 (4)

  Spring Semester
  - Completed the following:
    - ECED120 – Introduction of Professional Practice (3)
    - ECED128 – Practicum 2 (4)
    - ECED149 – Studies in Diversity (3)

Grand Total Credits: 52

Program Completion Requirements Notes:

Successful completion of all Year 1 courses is required for the Early Childhood Education Certificate. A student must complete the certificate within three years (36 months) from the start date.

Prior Learning and Recognition: Yes

Students are able to request formal recognition of their prior learning or experience outside the classroom. Challenge examination, portfolio-assisted assessment, work-based assessment or a combination of assessments that is appropriate to identify, assess, and recognize prior skills, competencies, and knowledge to achieve course credit. Tuition fees apply, refer to Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) or contact an education advisor for more information.

Program Transfer Credit:

For information about block transfer agreements between programs in British Columbia, Alberta, and elsewhere, please visit http://www.cotr.bc.ca/transfer.

To minimize transfer issues, check with an academic advisor at the institution that will receive the transfer credits.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/ and include the following:

- Policy 2.1.4 Course Audit
- Policy 2.4.1 Credential Framework
- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
- Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Feedback and Concerns
- Policy 2.4.11 Storage of Academic Works
- Policy 2.5.3 Student Appeal
- Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Program Changes:

Information contained in this program outline is correct at the time of publication. Courses and course content may be revised from time to time based on changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The timetable may also be revised.

Course Descriptions: Refer to Course Outlines – https://outlines.cotr.bc.ca/course/