

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Associate Degree: Early Childhood Education

Certificate of Completion: Early Childhood Education Administration

Early Childhood Development - Certificate of Completion

The Early Childhood Education associate degree program is designed to prepare students to become highly qualified teachers, assistant teachers, child developmental specialists, or family day care providers in professional child care for children ages birth through eight years. Students will gain a broad understanding of the specific needs of young children and develop strategies for meeting those needs. They may choose to continue their education at any four-year institution in New Mexico.

The DACC program includes the lower-division courses required for entry into the Teacher Education Program (TEP), a baccalaureate program at New Mexico State University. Alternatively, students may opt to transfer to a similar program at another four-year institution. Completion of this program does NOT guarantee admission into a Teacher Education Program at a four-year institution. Early in their second year of study at DACC, students should contact the four-year institution they have chosen to obtain application information.

Requirements and Limitations

- Students in the Early Childhood Education Program are required to complete and pass a security background check in order to take practicum courses and complete field experiences. Past criminal violations may prevent a student from completing the degree and from being hired by school systems or other child care facilities upon graduation.
- Students in the Early Childhood Education Program may be required to provide proof of current immunizations in order to complete practicum courses and field experiences.
- Students must complete all ECED technical requirement courses as well as the following courses with a grade of C- or better:

Prefix	Title	Credits
CEPY 1120G	Human Growth and Behavior	3
ENGL 1110G	Composition I	4
ENGL 2221G	Writing in the Humanities and Social Science	3
MATH 1134	Fundamentals of Elementary Mathematics I	3
MATH 2134G	Fundamentals of Elementary Math II	3

- MATH 1134** Fundamentals of Elementary Mathematics I is required for the degree, which has prerequisite(s): adequate scoring on the Mathematics Placement Exam, or any ACT/SAT and GPA combination that is considered equivalent, or a C- or better in **MATH 1215** or higher. Students may need to take any prerequisites needed to enter **MATH 1134**.
- Students must have a 2.0 GPA to graduate from this program. However, because a 2.75 GPA is required for acceptance into the Teacher Education Program at NMSU, it is highly recommended that DACC students complete the Early Childhood Education program with a 2.75 cumulative GPA.

- Time Limit on Undergraduate Teacher Education Courses.** Any education course more than seven years old taken at NMSU, NMSU community colleges or other institutions will not be counted toward the student's undergraduate program. A student may meet with the department to have the course time limit reviewed. The department head and/or faculty may recommend accepting a course that is seven years old with approval from the Dean's office. Any course not approved must be repeated by the student.
- Completion of all requirements does **not** guarantee acceptance in the NMSU Teacher Education Program. Please see the NMSU College of Education Advising Center for more information.