

CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Child Development and Early Childhood Department commits to improve and promote the quality of services and programs for young children and families in the surrounding communities by educating and training individuals for early childhood professions through partnerships with early childhood programs and social service agencies.

Specialization: Infant and Toddler Certificate

The Infant and Toddler certificate prepares students for entry-level positions in the field of Child Development and Early Childhood at programs such as Early Head Start and infant/toddler child care programs. This certificate provides the instruction and field experience necessary for successful care and guidance of young children birth through age three. The graduate will know and be able to promote child development/early childhood concepts and learning, use developmentally effective approaches to connect with children and families, and use content knowledge to build meaningful curriculum.

This certificate also provides students an option to apply for the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) from the Council for Professional Recognition after taking CDEC 1417 Child Development Associate Training I and CDEC 2422 Child Development Associate Training II. All students participating in Field Study courses and labs must have a negative TB test and a criminal background check submitted to the placement site. The Field Study course, CDEC 1167 Capstone: Field Study Infant/Toddler, must be taken during the semester the student is graduating. All credit hours earned under this certificate plan, with the exception of optional courses, transfer to the Associate of Applied Science degree in Child Development/Early Childhood. TECA courses and EDUC 1301 will transfer to the AA in Early Childhood Education Field of Study.

Specialization: Preschool Certificate

The Preschool certificate prepares students for entry-level positions in the field of Child Development and Early Childhood at programs such as Head Start and preschool child care programs. This certificate provides the instruction and field experience necessary for successful care and guidance of young children three to five years of age. The graduate will know and be able to promote child development concepts and learning, use developmentally effective approaches to connect with children and families, and use content knowledge to build meaningful curriculum.

This certificate also provides students an option to apply for the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) from the Council for Professional Recognition after taking CDEC 1417 Child Development Associate Training I and CDEC 2422 Child Development Associate Training II. All students participating in Field Study courses and labs must have a negative TB test and a criminal background check submitted to the placement site. The Field Study course, CDEC 2166 Capstone: Field Study Preschool, must be taken during the semester the student is graduating. All credit hours earned under this certificate plan, with the exception of optional courses, transfer to

the Associate of Applied Science degree in Child Development/Early Childhood. TECA courses and EDUC 1301 will transfer to the AA in Early Childhood Education Field of Study.

Child Development/Early Childhood

Associate of Applied Science

The curriculum leading to the Associate of Applied Science degree in Child Development/Early Childhood provides the instruction and field experience necessary for successful care and guidance of young children birth to eight years of age. Graduates will know and be able to promote child development concepts and learning; build family and community relationships; observe, document, and assess children; use developmentally effective approaches to connect with children and families; use content knowledge to build meaningful curriculum; and become an early childhood professional and advocate for young children. Students will be prepared for various positions in private kindergartens, child development centers, early childhood programs such as Early Head Start, Head Start, and non-profit and for-profit preschool and infant/toddler programs. They will also be prepared for jobs in the public/charter schools and after school programs such as teacher aide and other paraprofessional positions. All students participating in Field Study courses and labs must have a negative TB test and a criminal background check submitted to the placement site. The Field Study course, CDEC 2167 Capstone: Administration, must be taken during the semester the student is graduating. TECA courses will transfer to the AA in Early Childhood Education Field of Study.

Early Childhood Education

Associate of Arts

The Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education focuses on teaching students to understand the basics of child development and learning and the instructional strategies and planning needed to help young children birth to age 8 grow and learn. It will prepare students who are interested in pursuing a Bachelor degree in Early Childhood Education or related field and help qualify graduates for career opportunities in public and private daycare centers as teachers or managers, teacher assistants in the public school system, entry level positions in state/federally funded programs (Head Start and Early Head Start) and community-based programs.

Program Learning Outcomes

Specialization: Infant and Toddler Certificate

1. Students will be able to utilize developmentally appropriate practices with infants and toddlers in a classroom setting.
2. Students will be able to design developmentally appropriate lesson plans for infants and toddlers that incorporate early learning standards and content related curriculum.
3. Students will implement developmentally appropriate lesson plans that promote development and learning with infants and toddlers.

Specialization: Preschool Certificate

1. Students will be able to utilize developmentally appropriate practices with preschool children in a classroom setting.

- Students will be able to design developmentally appropriate lesson plans for preschool children that incorporate early learning standards and content related curriculum.
- Students will implement developmentally appropriate lesson plans that promote development and learning with preschool children.

Child Development/Early Childhood Associate of Applied Science

- Students will be able to describe developmental stages of children and youth.
- Students will be able to identify local community/educational resources that empower families to support children's growth and development.
- Students will use authentic and effective child assessment tools and methods to document young children's development and use the factual evidence/data gathered to plan developmentally appropriate individualized plans.
- Students will be able to utilize developmentally appropriate practices with children in a classroom setting.
- Students will be able to design developmentally appropriate lesson plans for young children that incorporate early learning standards and content related curriculum.
- Students will implement developmentally appropriate lesson plans that promote development and learning with infants, toddlers, and preschool children.

Early Childhood Education Associate of Arts

- Students will be able to describe developmental stages of children and youth.
- Students will be able to identify local community/educational resources that empower families to support children's growth and development.
- Students will distinguish strategies for creating respectful, responsive and reciprocal relationships with diverse families.
- Students will identify professional standards and ethical guidelines in the Early Childhood field.
- Students will draw connections between nutrition, health, and safety practices for promoting children's physical and psychological health.

Advisory Committee Members

(For Workforce Programs Only)

Pattie Rosenlund, Committee Chair, MS Executive Director, Easter Seals Rio Grande Valley
 Consuelo Casas, Administrator for Education, Hidalgo County Head Start
 Diana Bivens, Director, Covenant Christian Academy

Dr. Vejoia Viren, Associate Professor, Human Development and School Services, UTRGV
 Nancy Cuevas, Owner and Manager of Little Bright Minds Child Development Center
 Frank Campos, Lead, Child Care Quality, Workforce Solutions
 Dr. Jo Ann Patino, Health Services Director, UMOs Head Start

(For Academic Program Only)

TSI Liable

Field of Study - 18 Credit Hours

TECA 1311	Educating Young Children	3
TECA 1318	Wellness of the Young Child	3
TECA 1354	Child Growth and Development	3
TECA 1303	Family, School, and Community	3
EDUC 1301	Introduction to the Teaching Profession	3
PSYC 2308	Child Psychology	3

STC Core Curriculum - 42 Credit Hours

Complete 42 credit hours of required Core Curriculum ^{1,2}	42
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Total Credit Hours	60
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¹ In addition to the courses in the Field of Study, the student is required to take 42 hours from the STC Core Curriculum.

² Students must take SPCH 1311 Introduction to Speech Communication or SPCH 1318 Interpersonal Communications to meet the Component Area Option core requirement. Students must take ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation or MUSI 1306 Music Appreciation to meet the Creative Arts core requirement.

Certificates

- Child Development/Early Childhood Specialization: Infant and Toddler Certificate (p. 2)
- Child Development/Early Childhood Specialization: Preschool Certificate (p. 3)

Associate Degree

- Child Development/Early Childhood Associate of Applied Science (p. 3)
- Early Childhood Education Associate of Arts (p. 3)

Child Development/Early Childhood Specialization: Infant and Toddler Certificate

TSI Exempt

Course	Title	Credit Hours
Fall		
CDEC 1319	Child Guidance	3
TECA 1311	Educating Young Children	3
CDEC 1356	Emergent Literacy for Early Childhood	3
CDEC 1359	Children with Special Needs	3
CDEC 1417	Child Development Associate Training I ¹	4
Credit Hours		12-16
Spring		
TECA 1318	Wellness of the Young Child	3
CDEC 1321	The Infant and Toddler	3
CDEC 1358	Creative Arts for Early Childhood	3
CDEC 1167	Capstone: Field Study Infant/Toddler ²	1
CDEC 2422	Child Development Associate Training II ¹	4

EDUC 1301	Introduction to the Teaching Profession ³	3
Credit Hours		10-17
Total Credit Hours		22-33

¹ Class required only for students pursuing CDA Credential.

² By arrangement, all Field Study courses will be conducted at a pre-approved site. A TB test and criminal background check will be required.

³ Class is an option

Child Development/Early Childhood Specialization: Preschool Certificate

TSI Exempt

Course	Title	Credit Hours
Fall		
CDEC 1319	Child Guidance	3
TECA 1311	Educating Young Children	3
CDEC 1359	Children with Special Needs	3
CDEC 1356	Emergent Literacy for Early Childhood	3
CDEC 1417	Child Development Associate Training I ¹	4
Credit Hours		12-16
Spring		
CDEC 1313	Curriculum Resources for Early Childhood Programs	3
TECA 1318	Wellness of the Young Child	3
CDEC 2307	Math and Science for Early Childhood	3
CDEC 2166	Capstone: Field Study Preschool ²	1
CDEC 2422	Child Development Associate Training II ¹	4
EDUC 1301	Introduction to the Teaching Profession ³	3
Credit Hours		10-17
Total Credit Hours		22-33

¹ Class required only for students pursuing CDA Credential.

² By arrangement, all Field Study courses will be conducted at a pre-approved site. A TB test and criminal background check will be required.

³ Class is an option

Child Development/Early Childhood Associate of Applied Science

TSI Liable

Course	Title	Credit Hours
First Year		
Fall		
TECA 1311	Educating Young Children	3
TECA 1354	Child Growth and Development	3
CDEC 1319	Child Guidance	3
CDEC 1356	Emergent Literacy for Early Childhood	3
CDEC 1359	Children with Special Needs	3
Credit Hours		15
Spring		
TECA 1318	Wellness of the Young Child	3

CDEC 1313	Curriculum Resources for Early Childhood Programs	3
CDEC 1321	The Infant and Toddler	3
CDEC 1358	Creative Arts for Early Childhood	3
CDEC 2307	Math and Science for Early Childhood	3
CDEC 1167	Capstone: Field Study Infant/Toddler ²	1
Credit Hours		16

Second Year

Fall		
CDEC 1323	Observation and Assessment	3
ENGL 1301	Composition I ¹	3
Humanities Elective ¹		3
SPCH 1311 or SPCH 1318	Introduction to Speech Communication ¹ or Interpersonal Communications	3
CDEC 2326	Administration of Programs for Children I	3
CDEC 2166	Capstone: Field Study Preschool ²	1
Credit Hours		16
Spring		
TECA 1303	Family, School, and Community	3
CDEC 1341 or CDEC 2328 or CDEC 2336	CDA Preparation for Assessment or Administration of Programs for Children II or Administration of Programs for Children III	3
Math and Natural Sciences Elective ¹		3
PSYC 2301 or PSYC 2314	General Psychology ¹ or Lifespan Growth and Development	3
CDEC 2167	Capstone: Administration ²	1
Credit Hours		13
Total Credit Hours		60

¹ Identifies courses to fulfill minimum 15 credit hour General Education requirement

² All Field Study courses require Program Chair Approval and will be conducted at a pre-approved site. A negative TB test and a clear criminal background check will be required before beginning contact hours.

Early Childhood Education Associate of Arts

TSI Liable

Course	Title	Credit Hours
First Year		
Fall		
ENGL 1301	Composition I	3
Language, Philosophy & Culture Elective - Core Curriculum		3
Recommended:		
PHIL 1301 or PHIL 2306	Introduction to Philosophy or Introduction to Ethics	
HIST 1301 or HIST 2327	United States History I or Mexican-American History I	3
TECA 1311	Educating Young Children	3
Component Area Option - Core Curriculum		3
Select one of the following:		

SPCH 1311	Introduction to Speech or Communication	
SPCH 1318	or Interpersonal Communications	
Credit Hours		15
Spring		
EDUC 1301	Introduction to the Teaching Profession	3
ENGL 1302	Composition II - Rhetoric	3
GOVT 2305	Federal Government	3
HIST 1302 or HIST 2328	United States History II or Mexican-American History II	3
Creative Arts Elective - Core Curriculum		3
Select one of the following:		
ARTS 1301 or MUSI 1306	Art Appreciation or Music Appreciation	
	or Theater Appreciation	
DRAM 1310 or DANC 2303	or Dance Appreciation	
Credit Hours		15
Second Year		
Fall		
TECA 1318	Wellness of the Young Child	3
Mathematics Elective - Core Curriculum		3-4
Recommended:		
MATH 1414 or MATH 134	College Algebra or Elementary Statistical Methods	
Life and Physical Sciences Elective - Core Curriculum		4
Recommended:		
PHYS 1415 or BIOL 1408	Physical Science I or Biology for Non- Science Majors I	
Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective - Core Curriculum		3
Recommended:		
PSYC 2301 or PSYC 231	General Psychology or Lifespan Growth and Development	
TECA 1354	Child Growth and Development	3
Credit Hours		16-17
Spring		
PSYC 2308	Child Psychology	3
Life and Physical Sciences Elective - Core Curriculum		4
Recommended:		
PHYS 1417 or BIOL 1409	Physical Science II or Biology for Non- Science Majors II	
GOVT 2306	Texas Government	3
TECA 1303	Family, School, and Community	3
Component Area Option - Core Curriculum		1
Recommended:		
KINE 1164	Introduction to Physical Fitness and Wellness	
Credit Hours		14
Total Credit Hours		60-61