

CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Child Development and Early Childhood Department is committed to improving and promoting the quality of services and programs for young children and their families in the communities we serve by educating and training individuals for early childhood professions and by partnering with all early childhood programs and social service agencies.

Administration of Early Childhood Programs

Certificate

The Administration of Early Childhood Programs certificate is a one semester certificate that prepares students to meet the Texas Health and Human Services (THHS) Child Care Licensing educational requirements for a director or manager position at a child care center licensed for 13 or more children. It provides a basic foundation of knowledge and skills in both child development/early childhood and business management. All students participating in Field Study courses must have a negative TB test and a criminal background check submitted to the placement site. The Field Study course in this program, CDEC 2167 Capstone: Administration, is considered a capstone course and must be taken during the semester the student is graduating. All credit hours earned under this certificate plan transfer to the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Child Development/Early Childhood.

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.

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.

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 also will 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.

Advisory Committee Members

Pattie Rosenlund, Committee Chair, MS Executive Director, Easter Seals Rio Grande Valley
Arlene Singleterry, Supervisor, Child Care Licensing, THHS
Consuelo Casas, Administrator for Education, Hidalgo County Head Start
Mary Pena, President, El Valle Child Development Professionals Association
Vejoya Viren, Associate Professor, Human Development and School Services, UTRGV
Nancy Cuevas, Owner and Manager of Little Bright Minds Child Development Center
Jose Casarez, Director, Community Development Institute Head Start
Dr. Timothy Oblath, Assistant Professor, Texas A&M Kingsville, Department of Human Sciences

Certificates

- Administration of Early Childhood Programs Certificate (p. 2)

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

Associate Degree

- Child Development/Early Childhood Associate of Applied Science (p. 2)

Administration of Early Childhood Programs Certificate

TSI EXEMPT

Course	Title	Credit Hours
First Semester		
TECA 1311	Educating Young Children	3
TECA 1318	Wellness of the Young Child	3
TECA 1354 or CDEC 1313	Child Growth and Development or Curriculum Resources for Early Childhood Programs	3
CDEC 2326	Administration of Programs for Children I	3
CDEC 2328	Administration of Programs for Children II	3
CDEC 2336	Administration of Programs for Children III	3
CDEC 2167	Capstone: Administration ¹	1
Credit Hours		19
Total Credit Hours		19

¹ By arrangement, all Field Study courses will be conducted at a pre-approved site. A TB test and a criminal background check will be required.

Child Development/Early Childhood Specialization: Infant and Toddler Certificate

TSI EXEMPT

Course	Title	Credit Hours
First Semester		
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
Second Semester		
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
First Semester		
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
Second Semester		
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 Semester		
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
Second Semester		
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

Third Semester

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

Fourth Semester

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.