

Early Childhood Education

Degree Type

Associate of Science

NHTI's Early Childhood Education degree program prepares you to be an active researcher of children and how they learn. You'll learn to support families as each child's first educator, make connections between theory and practice, and discover why this profession is the "backbone" of our workforce. You'll be involved in immediate, hands-on training and provided opportunities to work beside highly trained early childhood teachers, practice the skills you learn, and complete assignments directly related to your studies.

This program can be completed entirely online!

Do you have questions? Contact Diana Menard, department chair, at dmenard@ccsnh.edu or 603-271-6484 x4281.



Career Information

Graduates are prepared for immediate entry into the field of early childhood education as teachers in N.H.-licensed or NAEYC-accredited child care centers, Head Start or Early Head Start programs, family child care, and elementary schools as para-educators. Graduates may further their education at a four-year college for pre-K–grade 3 teacher certification or in other areas of the early childhood field. This degree meets the training and education requirements for the State of N.H. Early Childhood Teacher Credential, Level 5.

Admission Requirements

Apply for this program today on our [Admissions page](#) with step-by-step instructions and enrollment pathways build just for you!

Scholarship Program

CCSNH partners with Granite State College to offer tuition assistance to child care providers who are entering or are currently working in the field of early care and education. Eligible individuals must be working at least 20 hours per week. For more information, contact Diana Menard, department chair of Child and Family Studies, at 603-271-6484 x4281 or dmenard@ccsnh.edu. For additional information, [visit the CCSNH page on early childhood education tuition assistance here](#).

There is also a scholarship available for this program through [T.E.A.C.H. NH \(click here for flyer\)](#). The T.E.A.C.H. NH Scholarship Program supports the cost of tuition and books, offers paid release time from work for scholarship recipients, and has a bonus upon completing 9-12 credits within a 12-month period. To be eligible, applicants must live in N.H. and work at least 30 hours a week in a licensed childcare program. Information and applications are available on the [N.H. Connections site](#).

Curriculum

First Year

Students whose placement test scores suggest difficulty with lengthy and complex assignments are strongly advised to complete the program in 3 or more years.

Fall Semester

Item #	Title	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credits
ECE101C	Growth and Development of the Young Child	3	0	3
ECE188C	Health, Safety, and Nutrition in Early Childhood Education	3	0	3
ENGL101C	English Composition	4	0	4
MATH120C	Quantitative Reasoning	4	0	4
Subtotal Credits		14	0	14

Spring Semester

Item #	Title	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credits
ECE143C	Teaching and Learning - STEAM	3	0	3
ECE167C	Positive Behavior Guidance and Supporting Young Children with Challenging Behaviors	3	0	3
ECE215C	Infant/Toddler Development and Programming	3	0	3
	ENGL120MC or ENGL 102C or ENGL102MC	3	0	3
PSYC105C	Introduction to Psychology	3	0	3
Subtotal Credits		15	0	15

Second Year

Fall Semester

Item #	Title	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credits
ECE155C	Using Children's Literature to Support Young Children's Language and Literacy Development	3	0	3
ECE275C	Practicum 1 - Observation, Interpretation, Assessment, and Portfolio Documentation	2	7	4
	Humanities/Fine Arts/Language elective	3	0	3-4
	Lab Science elective	3	2	4
	Social Science elective	3	0	3
Subtotal Credits		14-15	9	17-18

Item #	Title	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credits
ECE242C	Child, Family, and Community	3	0	3
ECE270C	Teaching Young Children with Exceptionalities	3	0	3
ECE276C	Practicum 2 - Exploring Teaching: Implementing Responsive Emergent Curriculum	2	7	4
ECE290C	Early Childhood Leadership Seminar	1	0	1
	General elective	3	0	3-4
	Subtotal Credits	12-13	7	14-15
Total Credits				60-62

Additional Information

This program offers a sequence of stackable certificates. The entry-level certificate enables students to enter the early childhood profession in as few as three courses with the opportunity to build on their knowledge and skills and advance their career while building credits toward the associate degree.

All early childhood courses, except ECE 290C, require a weekly child care lab component where students actively engage with young children to make connections between theory and practice, carry out class assignments, and learn through observation and active play. Students taking concurrent courses can use the same lab time for all courses. Students completing practicum may use their practicum site as their lab hours for other courses taken concurrent with practicum.

Accreditation

The Associate of Science degree in Early Childhood Education is accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Early Childhood Higher Education Programs of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, www.naeyc.org. The accreditation term runs from July 2019 through September 2026.

Program-Specific Requirements

- Students will spend designated hours each week with infants, toddlers, preschoolers, or kindergarteners while taking early childhood courses. These hours will be considered a component of class participation.
- Upon acceptance into the program, students must complete the following paperwork:
 - Submission of a criminal record check that comes back clear or non-disqualifying; the cost associated with the criminal record check is the responsibility of the student.
 - Signed confidentiality form
 - Other related documents distributed by the department chair
- Out-of-state students who are taking classes 100% online will need to complete their state's fingerprinting and background check, child health care form, and any other paperwork required by that state.
- Students must have transportation to and from NHTI approved practicum sites in their senior year.
- Students must have a flexible schedule that allows them to spend weekday mornings and/or afternoons at their practicum site while taking classes. Students should be prepared to plan work hours around their course schedule knowing that these hours will change each semester.
- All students must have access to a digital camera and video-capturing device to complete assignments. Online students will record themselves during practicum to share with their practicum teachers online.

Program Learning Outcomes

The Early Childhood Education program is hands-on, project-centered, and competency and evidence-based to facilitate the growth of future teachers and leaders preparing to work with children, families, and communities. Graduates are able to:

- Understand young children's characteristics and needs to create environments that are healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging for each child.

- Demonstrate that they know about, understand, and value the importance of creating respectful, reciprocal relationships to support and empower families in their communities.
- Responsibly observe, document, and assess children in a manner that supports young children and families.
- Understand developmentally effective approaches which emphasize positive relationships and supportive interactions to influence outcomes for individual children.
- Design, implement, and evaluate learning experiences that promote a wide range of academic disciplines to build meaningful curriculum.
- Identify and connect themselves as members of the early childhood profession.
- Demonstrate a variety of early childhood field experiences.

Program Objectives and Evidence Chart

[Download document here.](#)

Program Outcome Measures

of Program Completers

Academic year	Number of program completers	% attending full-time at the time of completion	% attending part-time at the time of completion
2018	21	24%	76%
2019	16	6%	94%
2020	19	16%	84%

Program Completion Rate

Academic year in which fall cohort of full-time candidates enrolled	% of candidates who completed program within 150% of published time	% of candidates who completed program within 100%, 200%, or 300% of published time
Fall 2016	39%	48%
Fall 2017	60%	60%
Fall 2018	50%	55%

Institutional Selected Data: The fall-to-fall retention rate for the three most recently completed academic years

Academic Year	% of part-time candidates enrolled in the program (% of total enrollment)	Retention rate among part-time candidates	% of full-time candidates enrolled in the program (% of total enrollment)	Retention rate among full-time candidates
Fall 2017-2018	55%	53%	45%	67%
Fall 2018-2019	55%	59%	45%	58%
Fall 2019-2020	71%	47%	29%	85%