

Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education

An Associate of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education prepares students to become competent early childhood educators that are interested in working in a paraprofessional role with young children and families. Students gain specialized knowledge and implement best practices in early childhood education. ECE graduates are employed in many settings such as Head Start, day-care centers, in-home support services, and other entry level child-centered positions. Students choose the AA in Early Childhood Education if planning to go directly into an early childhood employment setting or transfer to a university to complete a 4-year degree program.

Program learning outcomes

1. **Promoting Child Development and Learning:** Describe and defend the principles and theories of child development and implement developmentally appropriate activities through mastery of child development for children ages birth to eight years.
2. **Building Family and Community Relationships:** Demonstrate knowledge of family and community dynamics that support and empower families through respectful and reciprocal relationships within diverse populations, contexts, and Tohono O'odham communities.
3. **Observing, Documenting, and Assessing to Support Young Children and Families:** Demonstrate proficiency in observation and documentation of children's progress. Includes the use of observation, documentation, and assessment to establish learning goals and activities for the benefit of children's developmental and educational needs.
4. **Using Developmentally Effective Approaches to Connect with Children and Families:** Demonstrate knowledge of family and community dynamics that support and empower families through a respectful and reciprocal relationship.
5. **Using Content Knowledge to Build Meaningful Curriculum:** Plan a culturally and linguistically responsive learning environment for young children that is responsive to each child's physical health, intellectual and emotional well-being, and nutritional and safety needs.
6. **Becoming a Professional:** Demonstrate professional ethics and defend professional decisions based on the knowledge of early childhood theories and practices and the principles of the National Association for the Education of Young Children Code of Ethical Conduct.

Tohono O'odham Community College also offers an [Associates of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education](#) that is meant for direct employment on the Nation after completion of their associate degree.

**Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education
Program of Study**

General Education	General Education Category	Course Requirement	Credits Required	Recommended courses for this degree*
	Tohono O'odham Himdag	HIS 122 Tohono O'odham History and Culture (C)	3	
		THO 101 Elementary Tohono O'odham or THO 106 Conversational Tohono O'odham I	4	
	English Composition	WRT 101 Writing I	3	
		WRT 102 Writing II (I)	3	
	Mathematics	MAT 142H College Mathematics or higher	4	
	Humanities and Fine Arts	Choose any course from: Art General Education Selection	3	
		Choose any course from: Humanities General Education Selection	3	
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Choose any course from: Social and Behavioral Science General Education Selection	6	
	Two Lab-loaded Science Course	Choose any course from: Science	8	ANR 111N
Total General Education Credits			37 **	

* Recommended courses are courses that are recommended to take as part of the degree because the course is relevant to area of study and/or the course will be a requirement by most Universities when the student transfers. Consult with your Academic/Faculty Adviser for further information.

** Students should select at least one course that is designated with a (G) to meet this special requirement.

Core Requirements	Core Courses	
	ECE 105 Foundations of Early Childhood Education (offered F, S)	3
	ECE 110 Emergent Language and Literacy (offered F)	3
	ECE 125 Nutrition, Health, and Safety for the Young Child (offered F)	3
	ECE 217 Child Development (Offered F, S)	3
	ECE 226 Effective Interactions and Guidance (Offered S)	3
	ECE 228 Family, Culture, and Community (Offered S)	3
	ECE 291 Internship for Students with Experience in Early Childhood Education (Offered F, S)	4
Total Core Credits		22

F= Fall
S = Spring
Su = Summer

Electives	Highly recommended for this degree: SWU 171 Introduction to Social Work. Choose any course designated with the following prefixes: ECE, EDU, PSY, SOC, SSE, or SWU.	3
	Total Credits for Elective	3
	Total Credits for Degree	62