

Early Childhood Education

Honolulu Community College's Early Childhood Education Option (ECE) has been designed to prepare students to work with children from birth to age eight in infant-toddler programs, pre-school programs, after school programs, family childcare homes, and related programs. ECE offers several levels of training: the Certificate of Competence, Certificate of Completion, Certificate of Achievement and Associate in Applied Science Degree. The CDA prep certificate provides the formal training component. The AAS plus 6-months of experience qualifies students for immediate employment in private early childhood programs.

Program Entry Requirements

none

Other Requirements:

Criminal history background check prior to enrollment in ED 151 or ED 191.

Program Technical Standards

Our program technical standards have been developed to help students understand the minimum essential mental, physical, and behavioral skills necessary for participation in and completion of all core aspects of our curriculum.

As an ECE student, you will be expected to do the following:



General: Apply concepts from child development research and best practices in the field to work effectively with children and their families.

Specific: Do simple research using library and Internet resources.
Solve interpersonal problems with and between children.
Make decisions about program environment and curriculum.
Resolve issues involving childcare staff and families.



General: Assess children's behavior and environment for care and safety.

Specific: Observe children at a distance and close at hand.
Perceive children's verbal and nonverbal cues and respond appropriately.
Scan environment and facilities for safety purposes.

Recommended Preparation

Not specified

Costs (not including tuition)

Not specified



ECE student solves interpersonal problems between children.



ECE student conducts simple research in the library.

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Motor skills

General: Possess sufficient physical strength, flexibility, and dexterity to perform education and care routines for children.

Specific: Manipulate materials and equipment such as scissors, puzzles, computers, and CD players.
Provide safe and nurturing contact to promote healthy development.
Safely lift and transport children during care routines such as diapering or feeding.
Interact with children at varying heights.
Evacuate children in cases of emergency.

ECE students observe children at a distance and close at hand.



Communication skills

General: Communicate effectively to gather and convey information and guidance.

Specific: Share information with children, family members, and colleagues through notes, meetings, and phone calls, etc.
Understand and respond to information received from children, family members, and colleagues through notes, newsletters, portfolios, written reports, meetings, and phone calls, etc.
Communicate clearly with groups of children during indoor and outdoor activities.
Write clearly with and for children.

ECE student safely lifts and transports a child during a care routine.



Behavioral skills

General: Behave appropriately and safely in a childcare environment.

Specific: Demonstrate maturity and sensitivity in dealing with children and adults.
Exercise good judgement to respond promptly and responsibly to children's needs.
Work cooperatively with partners and groups.
Use appropriate interpersonal skills.
Follow safety procedures.

ECE student gathers information and provides guidance.

Environmental tolerance

General: Function safely in a childcare lab and playground.

Specific: Work for prolonged periods amidst:
Dirt, dust, and odors
Residue from cleaning products

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ECE students follow safety procedures in a childcare lab and playground.

For More Information

If you are interested in our program, we encourage you to meet with our ECE counselor (phone: 845-9129) and refer to the information at <http://tech.honolulu.hawaii.edu/earlyed/index.html> to decide whether the ECE program is right for you.

Please keep in mind that you will have to fulfill additional requirements to be eligible for certification exams or licensure in the field. For examples go to <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/STATES/HI/hawaii.htm>. Workplace requirements include a criminal history background check and TB/HepB/Measles clearance and physical.

Disability Accommodations

We have developed our technical standards in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. We will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. If you are interested in our program, we encourage you to review the program technical standards and course information at <http://tech.honolulu.hawaii.edu/earlyed/index.html> to decide whether the ECE program is right for you.

If you have questions about the ECE program, please call the HCC Counseling Office at 845-9129. Individuals with hearing impairments may call 845-9270 (v/t) or use the Telecommunication Relay Service at 1-877-447-5990.

If you have questions about disability access and accommodations, please direct them to HCC's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 845-9282 (v/t), 845-9272 (v/t), or e-mail access@hcc.hawaii.edu. SSD will be happy to meet with you, evaluate your disability documentation, and, as appropriate, recommend reasonable accommodations consistent with your documented limitations and the technical standards of the program. We will keep your disability information confidential within the parameters of the accommodation process.