

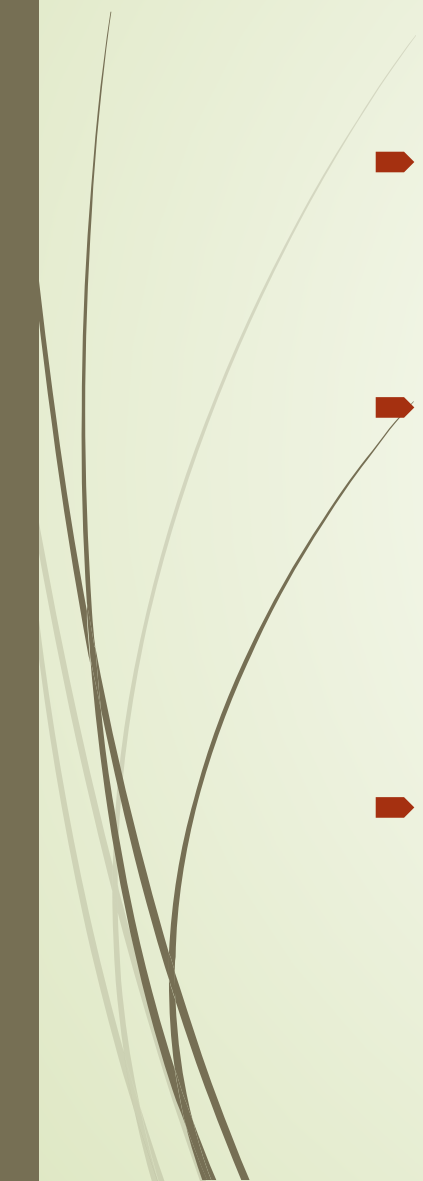
Northwest Indian College

Associate of Applied Science – Transfer
in Early Childhood Education
Overview of Degree & Certificate Programs





ECE Degree Program Highlights

- Designed for people pursuing careers in the early care and education field
 - Prepares students for positions as lead teachers and for a variety of other employment opportunities
 - Head Start, childcare, and other birth-to-eight programs
 - Enables students to transfer to four-year degree programs in early learning, child development, family studies, or other related fields
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Guided by Coast Salish ECE Values*

- Intergenerational Participation based on Extended Family Systems
- Developmentally Appropriate Practices
- Respect for Coast Salish Way of Life
- Traditional Teachings
- Reclamation, Restoration, and Revitalization of Native Languages

* Learned from Lummi elders, Tribal leaders, community members, parents / families and early childhood educators during ECE visioning sessions that took place in 2012



Exploring Decolonization in ECE

- In the context of reclamation, removal, reoccupation, and regeneration:
 - Ensuring reattachment and reunification of Native children and families
 - Exposing young children to their Native tongue
 - Fostering Native language acquisition by children
 - Infusing early learning curriculum with community values and practices
 - Connecting to place-based education, including land, water, flora, and fauna
 - Increasing the number of Native teachers in Tribal early learning programs
 - Implementing culturally sustaining pedagogy and practice



ECE Degree Program Overview

- Total of 21 courses
- Total of 96 credits
- Courses fall into four categories:
 - College Requirements
 - Foundational Requirements
 - General Education Requirements
 - Early Childhood Education Requirements
 - 11 “core” courses
 - 50 credits in ECE coursework for AAS-T in WA



College Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
CMST 101	Introduction to Oral Communications	4
CMPS 101	Introduction to Computers	3
HMDV 110	Introduction to Successful Learning	4
Total Number of Credits for College Requirements		11



Foundational Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
CSOV 101	Introduction to Cultural Sovereignty	5
CSOV 102	The Language of Our Ancestors*	5
CSOV 120	Reclaiming Our History	5
Total Number of Credits for Foundational Requirements		15

* Option of taking NASD 101 and NASD 102 in lieu of CSOV 102.

General Education Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 101*	English Composition I	5
ENGL 102	English Composition II	5
MATH 107*	Elementary Statistics	5
BIOL 104	Natural History of Place	5
Total Number of Credits for General Education Requirements		20

* Placement test scores *may* require additional math and English classes.

ECE Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
ECED 101	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	5
ECED 106	Guidance in Early Childhood	4
ECED 114	Health, Safety, and Nutrition	5
ECED 160	Infant Toddler Caregiving	4
ECED 197	Practicum I: Expressing Warmth to Children	3
ECED 206	Building Relationships: Culture, Family, Community	4
ECED 210	Child Development	5
ECED 212	Observation, Documentation, and Assessment	5
ECED 213	Preschool Curriculum Development	5
ECED 220	Communication, Language, and Literacy	5
ECED 297	Practicum II: Connecting with Children	5
Total Number of Credits for ECE Requirements		50



Initial ECE Certificate – the equivalent to a non-expiring Child Development Associate (CDA) credential


Course	Title	Credits
ECED 101	Introduction to Early Childhood Education Taught every fall quarter	5
ECED 114	Health, Safety, and Nutrition Taught every winter quarter	5
ECED 197	Practicum: Expressing Warmth to Children Taught every fall quarter	3
Total Number of Credits for Initial ECE Certificate		13

Earn your Initial ECE Certificate within two quarters!



Short Certificate of Specialization Option # 1: Infant Toddler Caregiving

Course	Title	Credits
ECED 160	Infant Toddler Caregiving	4
ECED 210	Child Development	5
Total Number of Credits for Short Certificate of Specialization		9



Short Certificate of Specialization Option # 2: General Education

Course	Title	Credits
ECED 106	Guidance in Early Childhood	4
ECED 210	Child Development	5
Total Number of Credits for Short Certificate of Specialization		9



Articulation Agreement

- Salish Kootenai College, sister Tribal College & University
- Graduates of NWIC's two-year ECE degree can transfer to SKC's four-year Bachelor of Science ECE degree
- Partnership supports Head Start and Early Head Start teachers as well as early childhood education service providers to continue pursuing higher education and earn a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education.
- Goal is to increase the quality of preparation through robust field experiences with the integration of language and culture.
- Purpose of the project is to build capacity to sustain and expand a pipeline of highly qualified early childhood education graduates at all levels to meet the extensive needs of Native children and families in Tribal communities.



ECE Grant Initiative

- ▶ Generous three-year grant from SKC provides NWIC students and transfer students at SKC with tremendous supports:
 - ▶ Dedicated Graduation Coach who meets with students monthly and weekly, individually and collectively
 - ▶ Connections to campus and community resources to help mitigate barriers
 - ▶ Stipends upon the successful completion of classes each quarter
 - ▶ Curriculum materials reflecting place-based education
 - ▶ Professional Development and scholarships to attend conferences focusing on Indigenous education and early childhood education

Unique Features of ECE Program

- ▶ Video Conference Hybrid modality
- ▶ Enables us to serve students at NWIC's seven campuses and beyond
- ▶ Creates intertribal relationships among early childhood educators
- ▶ Allows students to get an understanding of ECE issues, topics, challenges, and solutions from various Tribal perspectives
- ▶ Enables our ECE students to witness creative and innovative solutions that are taking place at other Tribal Nations, that their early learning program may not have considered yet
- ▶ Encourages ECE students to see the possibilities of adapting / modifying successful solutions to potentially meet their respective Tribal community's early learning needs
- ▶ Reduces class time by having educational materials posted in Canvas (LMS)

Unique Features of ECE Program

- Evening sections for all ECE core courses
 - Allow students who are in-service teachers to work during the day
 - Dismiss class in time for students to return to their families
- Communities of Practice
 - Honor that most ECE students have existing experience and expertise in the early learning field
 - Create an environment where students contribute to one another's learning
- Faculty are former early childhood educators themselves
 - Aware of the trials and tribulations ECE teachers must overcome and therefore flexible to meet the needs of all students
 - Maintain high expectations of students coupled with an abundance of support

Questions or Comments

► Contact

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