

Child Care Services

Technical Diploma

The Child Care Services Technical Diploma prepares students for working in a child care setting as a lead teacher. Earning this technical diploma allows students to complete their education in as little as one year. Additionally, students enrolled in the Child Care Services Technical Diploma will complete the first year of the Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education at Nicolet College, setting them up for future educational opportunities.

In the Child Care Services Technical Diploma, students will gain a deeper understanding of child development, curriculum planning, classroom management, and implementing a healthy and safe classroom environment. This diploma includes one field experience course, which gives students a hands-on opportunity for applying what is learned in the college classroom.

This 30-credit diploma is designed to acknowledge the educational requirements for a child care teacher. Completers of this diploma will meet the educational guidelines for teachers in child care centers and will be recognized as Wisconsin Registry Career Level 11. This diploma is a great choice for child care programs looking to support staff's professional development, as well as improve Youngstar ratings.

Program Outline

TERM 1		
Course #	Course Title	Credits
1030714800	ECE Foundations of Early Childhood Ed This 3-credit course introduces the early childhood profession through a historical overview of the field. The course will explore program trends, quality indicators, and developmentally appropriate practices for children birth to age 8.	3.00
1030715100	ECE Infant and Toddler Development This 3-credit course explores infant and toddler development as it applies to an early childhood education setting. This course focuses children conception through thirty-six months. This course includes training for Wisconsin Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care certification.	3.00
1030716600	ECE Curriculum Planning Examines the components of curriculum planning in early childhood education. Integrates strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives, examine the critical role of play, establish a developmentally appropriate environment, examine care giving routines as curriculum, develop activity plans that promote child development and learning, develop unit plans that promote child development and learning, and analyze early childhood curriculum models.	3.00
1030716700	ECE Health Safety and Nutrition This 3-credit course examines the topics of health, safety, and nutrition within the context of the early childhood educational setting. This course includes training for Abusive Head Trauma, SIDS, and Mandated Reporter certifications.	3.00
1080119600	Oral Interpersonal Communication Focuses upon developing speaking, verbal and nonverbal communications, and listening skills through individual presentations, groups activities, and other projects.	3.00
TERM 2		
Course #	Course Title	Credits

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1030711000	ECE Soc S Art and Music This 3-credit course will focus on beginning level curriculum development in the specific integrated content areas of social studies, art, music, & movement (SSAMM). Prerequisite: 1030716600 ECE Curriculum Planning (C or better).	3.00
1030716000	ECE Field Experience 1 In this 3-credit introductory field experience course, you will be introduced to the foundations of early childhood education under guided supervision of a mentor teacher in an early childhood setting, working with children birth through age 8. This course meets the requirements for the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards 18-hour training. Prerequisites: 1030716700 ECE Health Safety and Nutrition (C or better) and 1030716600 ECE Curriculum Planning (C or better).	3.00
1030717900	ECE Child Development Description The 3-credit course examines child development within the context of the early childhood education setting. This course focuses on children ages 3 -8 years.	3.00
1030718800	ECE Guiding Child Behavior This 3-credit course examines positive strategies to guide children's behavior in the early childhood education setting. This course meets the requirements of the Wisconsin Pyramid Model training.	3.00
1080119500	Written Communication Develops writing skills which include prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. A variety of writing assignments is designed to help the learner analyze audience and purpose, research and organize ideas, and format and design documents based on subject matter and content. Also develops critical reading and thinking skills through the analysis of a variety of written documents.	3.00

Total Credits: 30.00

Talk with a Success Coach about the program outline. Together, you will determine if credits you've already earned satisfy any requirements, discuss possible alternative courses, and choose the best classes if you're thinking of transferring.

At A Glance

How You'll Learn

Summer 2026 Start Date

May 18 - Summer Term Start
June 15 - Additional Term Start for Select Courses

Fall 2026 Start Dates

August 31 - 16-Week Fall Term Start
October 26 - Additional 8-Week Term Start for Select Courses

Spring 2027 Start Dates

January 11 - 16-Week Spring Term Start
March 15 - Additional 8-Week Term Start for Select Courses

[VIEW FULL ACADEMIC CALENDAR](#)

Program Tuition*

\$4,859

*Total cost for degree completion is estimated by current course requirements, books, and supplies. Tuition and fees are set by the Wisconsin Technical College System and subject to change.

Financial Aid Eligible

► [Potential Indirect Costs](#)

What You'll Learn

- Relate knowledge of child development to practice
- Create relationships with children, family, and the community
- Apply observation, documentation, and assessment strategies
- Implement developmentally appropriate teaching and learning experiences
- Demonstrate professional practice
- Follow health, safety, and nutrition practices

Your Potential Careers

- Child Care Teacher
- Child Care Assistant Teacher
- Family Child Care Provider
- Nanny

Median Annual Salary

\$25,700	\$28,200	\$31,400
Local	State	National

JobsEQ 2023Q4

Get Started

Your application can be submitted online, it takes just a few minutes to complete.

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