NICOLET COLLEGE

Early Childhood Education

Associate of Applied Science

Experience both academic theory and hands-on application through a series of practicums to develop an understanding of physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of young children and acquire skill in planning and implementing programs that promote development. The program prepares you to work in a variety of early childhood education settings including child care centers, Head Start programs, school-age child care programs, and family day care homes. The Associate's degree also provides a foundation if you intend to continue your education at a four-year college or university.

Program Outline

TERM 1

Course #	Course Title	Credits
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
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
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
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

TERM 2

Course #	Course Title	Credits
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

Course #	Course Title	Credits
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
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
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

TERM 3

Course #	Course Title	Credits
1080917200	Introduction to Diversity Studies Introduces learners to the study of diversity from a local to a global environment using a holistic, interdisciplinary approach. Encourages self-exploration and prepares the learner to work in a diverse environment. In addition to an analysis of majority/minority relations in a multicultural context, the primary topics of race, ethnicity, age, gender, class, sexual orientation, disability, and religion are explored.	3.00
1080918800	Developmental Psychology Study of human development throughout the lifespan. Explores developmental theory and research with an emphasis on the interactive nature of the biological, cognitive, and psychosocial changes that affect the individual from conception to death. Application activities and critical thinking skills will enable students to gain an increased knowledge and understanding of themselves and others.	3.00
1030711200	ECE STEM This 3-credit course will focus on beginning level curriculum development in the specific integrated content areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Prerequisite: 1030716600 ECE Curriculum Planning (C or better).	3.00
1030718700	ECE Children with Differing Abilities This 3-credit course focuses on the child with differing abilities in an inclusive early childhood education setting while examining strategies for cultivating partnerships with families and community supports.	3.00
1030717000	ECE Field Experience 2 In this 3-credit intermediate field experience course, you will assist the mentor teacher in carrying out classroom routines and implementing developmentally appropriate learning experiences that promote child development and learning through play. Prerequisites: 1030718800 ECE Guiding Child Behavior (C or better) and 1030716000 ECE Field Experience 1 (C or better).	3.00

TERM 4

Course #	Course Title	Credits

Course #	Course Title	Credits
1080611200	Principles of Sustainability Prepares the student to develop sustainable literacy, analyze the interconnections among the physical and biological sciences and environmental systems, summarize the effects of sustainability on health and well-being, analyze connections among social, economic, and environmental systems, employ energy conservation strategies to reduce the use of fossil fuels, investigate alternative energy options, evaluate options to current waste disposal and recycling in the U.S., and analyze approaches used by your community to promote and implement sustainability.	3.00
1030719500	ECE Family and Community Relationships This 3-credit course will examine the role of relationships with family and community in early childhood education. In this course, students will complete the Strengthening Families Training.	3.00
1030719000	ECE Field Experience 3 In this 3-credit advanced field experience course, you will support young children's development through observation, assessment, and implementation of developmentally appropriate teaching strategies. Prerequisite: 1030717000 ECE Field Experience 2 (C or better). Corequisite: 1030721000 ECE Field Experience 4.	3.00
1030721000	ECE Field Experience 4 In this final 3-credit pre-professional field experience course, you will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of children and families as you practice the lead teacher role to design, implement, and evaluate a connected unit of learning experiences. Prerequisite: 1030717000 ECE Field Experience 2 (C or better). Corequisite: 1030719000 ECE Field Experience 3.	3.00
1030710800	ECE Early Language and Literacy This 3-credit course explores strategies to encourage the development of early language and literacy knowledge and skill building in children birth to 8 years of age.	3.00

Total Credits: 60.00

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

Next Academic Start Dates

11
JAN

Spring 2027 Term Starts

15
MAR

Additional Spring 2027 Start for Select Courses

VIEW FULL CALENDAR

Program Tuition*

$9,724

Books & Supplies*

$754

*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

- Apply child development theory to practice
- Cultivate relationships with children, family, and the community
- Assess child growth and development
- Use effective, research-based practices in teaching and learning
- Demonstrate professionalism
- Integrate health, safety, and nutrition practices

Transfer Pathways

Are you planning to earn a bachelor's degree? Learn about the transfer pathways offered through Nicolet College.

LEARN MORE ABOUT TRANSFERRING

Your Potential Careers

- Infant/Toddler/Preschool Child Care Teacher
- Child Care Center Program Director or owner
- Child Care Center Administrator or Owner
- Family Day Care Provider
- School Age Child Care Teacher/Director

- Head Start Teacher or Home Visitor
- Child Care Resource and Referral Specialist
- Child and Family Center Specialist
- Infant/Toddler/Preschool Child Care Teacher Assistant

Median Annual Salary

Local	State	National
$23,374	$27,673	$32,553

EMSI 2022.1

Get Started

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

APPLY NOW