Early Childhood Education
10-307-1 Associate Degree (two-year)

Program Overview
The Early Childhood Education program prepares students to work as teacher-caregivers in early childhood settings. It combines hands-on fieldwork in area centers with related academic work at the college. Graduates become responsible for the care and education of children in the birth-to-eight-years age range. They create and maintain safe and healthy play environments, guide behavior, plan and implement learning activities, and work cooperatively with staff and parents. Graduates of this program will be recognized as Wisconsin Registry Career Ladder-Career Level 12.

Special Features
Earn an Early Childhood Education degree in two years or less through online, daytime or evening classes.

General Studies courses are offered in a variety of delivery methods including in-person, online, or ITV (Interactive Television).

Agreements between the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) and the following baccalaureate degree-granting institutions allow graduates to transfer credits to:
- Cardinal Stritch University
- Lakeland College
- UW-La Crosse
- UW-Oshkosh
- UW-River Falls
- UW-Stevens Point

Contact the receiving institution for specific details.

Admission Requirements
Students in this program must:
- Complete application form and submit with fee (fee waiver may apply if previously submitted)
- Complete Accuplacer entrance assessment to determine placement (waiver may apply with acceptable alternative test scores and/or postsecondary degree completion)
- Review and sign the Functional Ability Statement of Understanding
- Review and sign Caregiver Background Check and/or Criminal History Record Check Statement of Understanding
- Complete admissions meeting with a WITC counselor (above requirements should be completed prior to meeting)

Program-Specific Requirements
Students in this program must:
- Complete and sign Background Information Disclosure Form (BID)
- Submit Background Check fee
- Have an acceptable Wisconsin Caregiver Background Check or Minnesota Caregiver Background Check, as applicable
- Information from the Caregiver Background Check may affect ability to secure fieldwork placement and the ability to find employment after graduation.
- Complete Staff Health Report - Child Care Provider form (physical form)
- Complete practicum experiences required in the Early Childhood Education program. Practicum 1 requires a minimum of 64 hours of off-campus field experience, and Practicum 2, 3, and 4 require a minimum of 128 hours of off-campus field experience. In-class contact time is also required as part of the practicum experience.

Program Outcomes
Employers will expect Early Childhood Education graduates to:
- Apply child development theory to practice
- Cultivate relationships with children, family, and the community
- Assess child growth and development
- Use best practices in teaching and learning
- Demonstrate professionalism
- Integrate health, safety, and nutrition practices

Employability essentials and indicators will also be addressed to develop personal awareness, career effectiveness, and professionalism. See page 5 of the college catalog for a list of employability essentials and indicators.

Career Outlook
The demand for early childhood professionals continues to increase as parents look for providers who can guide their child’s development. The typical careers that are available after graduation include:
- Child Care Teacher
- Child Care Assistant Teacher
- Family Child Care Provider
- Infant or Toddler Caregiver
- In-Home Nanny
- Early Childhood Special Needs Assistant
- Program Director/Administrator
- Public School Teacher Aide/Assistant
- Head Start Teacher/Assistant

Career Pathway Options
Career Pathways connect progressive levels of coursework to allow students to build upon their education. Each step in the pathway connects with employment opportunities and provides the opportunity for advancement to higher levels. The Early Childhood Education program includes the following pathway option:

- 31-307-1 E-Connect - Child Care Services Technical Diploma (page 94)
- 17-307-5 Professional Credential for Preschool Teachers (Wisconsin) Technical Certificate (page 206)

Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10307148</td>
<td>ECE: Foundations of Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10307151</td>
<td>ECE: Infant &amp; Toddler Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10307166</td>
<td>ECE: Curriculum Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>10307167</td>
<td>ECE: Health, Safety, &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10307174</td>
<td>ECE: Practicum 1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10307178</td>
<td>ECE: Art, Music, &amp; Language Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>10307179</td>
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<td>ECE: Guiding Children’s Behavior</td>
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<td>10307192</td>
<td>ECE: Practicum 2 **</td>
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<tr>
<td>10307194</td>
<td>ECE: Math, Science, &amp; Social Studies</td>
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<td>10307195</td>
<td>ECE: Family &amp; Community Relationships</td>
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<td>10307197</td>
<td>ECE: Practicum 3 ***</td>
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<tr>
<td>10307198</td>
<td>ECE: Administering an Early Childhood Education Program or</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10307204</td>
<td>Supervision/Administration of ECE Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10307199</td>
<td>ECE: Practicum 4 ***</td>
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General Studies Courses

- 10801136 English Composition 1 ▲ | 3 |
- 10801196 Oral/Interpersonal Communication or | 3 |
- 10801198 Speech | 3 |
- 10809172 Introduction to Diversity Studies | 3 |
- 10809196 Introduction to Sociology | 3 |
- 10809198 Introduction to Psychology or | 3 |
- 10809188 Developmental Psychology | 3 |
- 10809195 Economics or | 3 |
- 10809122 Introduction to American Government | 3 |
- 10804123 Math with Business Applications or | 3 |
- 10804134 Mathematical Reasoning** or | 3 |
- 10804189 Introductory Statistics or | 3 |
- 10806112 Principles of Sustainability or | 3 |
- 10806122 Natural Sciences in Society or | 3 |
- 10806198 Human Biology | 3 |

Electives

- 21

Program Requirements

- Requires a prerequisite and/or corequisite that must be completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better.
- See pages 41-43 for course descriptions.
- Credit for Prior Learning not applicable for this course
- Students must earn a 2.0 or better in this course

Career Pathways

- 31-307-1 E-Connect - Child Care Services Technical Diploma
- 17-307-5 Professional Credential for Preschool Teachers (Wisconsin) Technical Certificate

*This credential will fully transfer into the Early Childhood Education and E-CHiLD Associate Degree programs when the ECE: Preschool Credential Capstone course is applied toward the required 3 credit elective

Financial Aid Eligible

Campus:
- Ashland
- New Richmond
- Rice Lake
- Superior

Programs

- Early Childhood Education
- E-CHiLD

E-Connect - Child Care Services Technical Diploma

- 10-307-1 Credit-based Program
- 31-307-1 Technical Diploma (one-year)

- 10-307-3 Technical Certificate
- 10-307-5 Professional Credential for Preschool Teachers (Wisconsin) Technical Certificate

- 10-307-9 Early Childhood Education & E-CHiLD Associate Degree Program

T.E.A.C.H. Wisconsin Child Care Rating Program

WITC offers a wide array of credit-based early childhood education courses, credentials, and degree options that align with the Youngstar requirements. For more information, go to www.witc.edu/ece.

http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/teach/
Programs and Course Descriptions

Course Descriptions
(See pages 41-43 for General Studies course descriptions)

10307148 ECE: Foundations of Early Childhood Education - Credits: 3
This 3-credit course introduces you to the early childhood profession. Course competencies include: integrate strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives; investigate the history of early childhood education; summarize types of early childhood education settings; identify the components of a quality early childhood education program; summarize responsibilities of early childhood education professionals; explore early childhood curriculum models, and analyze the principles of the WI Model Early Learning Standards.

1030751 ECE: Art, Toddler Development - Credits: 3
In this 3-credit course you will study infant and toddler development as it applies to an early childhood education setting. Course competencies include: integrate strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives; analyze development of infants and toddlers (conception to three years); correlate prenatal conditions with development; summarize child development theories; analyze the role of heredity and the environment; examine culturally and developmentally appropriate environments for infants and toddlers, examine the role of brain development in early learning (conception through age three); examine caregiving routines as curriculum.

10307166 ECE: Curriculum Planning - Credits: 3
This 3-credit course examines the components of curriculum planning in early childhood education. Course competencies include: integrate strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives; examine the critical role of play; establish a developmentally appropriate environment for art, music, and language arts; develop activity plans that promote children's development and learning; analyze caregiving routines as curriculum; create developmentally appropriate art activities; create developmentally appropriate music and movement activities.

10307719 ECE: Child Development - Credits: 3
The 3-credit course examines child development within the context of the early childhood education setting. Course competencies include: analyze social, cultural, and economic influences on child development; analyze development of children's three age through age eight; summarize the methods and designs of child development research; analyze the role of heredity and the environment; examine the role of brain development in early learning (ages 3-8).

10307187 ECE: Children with Differing Abilities - Credits: 3
This 3-credit course focuses on the child with differing abilities in an early childhood education setting. Course competencies include: integrate strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives; provide inclusive programs for young children; apply legal and ethical requirements including, but not limited to, ADA and IDEA; work collaboratively through the consultation process to embed intervention in naturalized settings; differentiate between typical and exceptional development; analyze the differing abilities of children with physical, cognitive, health/medical, communication, and/or behavioral/emotional disorders; work collaboratively with community. Course requires: students must complete or have on file a Staff Health Report – Child Care Provider form (physical form) and current, valid Background Information Disclosure (BID) and Caregiver Background Check (annual Wisconsin and/or Minnesota as applicable) forms, as part of this course.

10307192 ECE: Practicum 2 - Credits: 3
In this 3-credit practicum course you will learn about and apply the course competencies in an actual child care setting. The course competencies include: identify children's growth and development; maintain the standards of quality early childhood education; use developmentally appropriate strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives; implement teacher-developed activity plans; identify the elements of a developmentally appropriate environment; implement positive guidance strategies; demonstrate professional behaviors; utilize caregiving routines as curriculum; utilize positive interpersonal skills with children and adults; analyze the guiding principles and the five development domains related to the WI Early Learning Standards; integrate the WI Early Learning Standards into the program's teaching cycle (ongoing assessment, planning, and evaluation of goals and implementation); evaluate learning and assessment activities using the early learning standards for each individual child. Students must complete or have on file a Staff Health Report – Child Care Provider form (physical form) and current, valid Background Information Disclosure (BID) and Caregiver Background Check (annual Wisconsin and/or Minnesota as applicable) forms, as part of this course.

10307178 ECE: Art, Music, Language Arts - Credits: 3
This 3-credit course will focus on beginning level curriculum development in the specific content areas of art, music, and language arts. Course competencies include: integrate strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives; examine the critical role of play; establish a developmentally appropriate environment for art, music, and language arts; develop activity plans that promote child development and learning; analyze caregiving routines as curriculum; create developmentally appropriate literature, and literacy activities; create developmentally appropriate art activities; create developmentally appropriate music and movement activities.

10307179 ECE: Child Development - Credits: 3
This 3-credit course examines child development within the context of the early childhood education setting. Course competencies include: analyze social, cultural, and economic influences on child development; analyze development of children's three age through age eight; summarize the methods and designs of child development research; analyze the role of heredity and the environment; examine the role of brain development in early learning (ages 3-8).

10307186 ECE: Guiding Children's Behavior - Credits: 3
This 3-credit course examines positive strategies to guide children's behaviors in an early childhood education setting. Course competencies include: integrate strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives; summarize early childhood guidance principles; analyze the behavior of children; practice positive guidance strategies; develop guidance strategies to meet individual needs; create a guidance philosophy.

10307192 ECE: Practicum 2 - Credits: 3
In this 3-credit practicum course you will learn about and apply the course competencies in an actual child care setting. The course competencies include: identify children's growth and development; maintain the standards of quality early childhood education; use developmentally appropriate strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives; implement teacher-developed activity plans; identify the elements of a developmentally appropriate environment; implement positive guidance strategies; demonstrate professional behaviors; utilize caregiving routines as curriculum; utilize positive interpersonal skills with children and adults; analyze the guiding principles and the five development domains related to the WI Early Learning Standards; integrate the WI Early Learning Standards into the program's teaching cycle (ongoing assessment, planning, and evaluation of goals and implementation); evaluate learning and assessment activities using the early learning standards for each individual child. Students must complete or have on file a Staff Health Report – Child Care Provider form (physical form) and current, valid Background Information Disclosure (BID) and Caregiver Background Check (annual Wisconsin and/or Minnesota as applicable) forms, as part of this course.

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10307194 ECE: Math, Science, & Social Studies - Credits: 3
This 3-credit course will focus on beginning level curriculum development in the specific content areas of math, science, and social studies. Course competencies include: integrate strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives; examine the critical role of play; establish a developmentally appropriate environment for math, science, and social studies; develop activity plans that promote child development and learning; create developmentally appropriate science activities; create developmentally appropriate math activities; create developmentally appropriate social studies activities.

10307195 ECE: Family & Community Relationships - Credits: 3
In this 3-credit course you will use the role of relationships with family and community in early childhood education. Course competencies include: implement strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives when working with families and community; analyze contemporary family patterns, trends, and relationships; utilize effective communication strategies; establish ongoing relationships with families; advocate for children and families work collaboratively with community resources.

10307197 ECE: Practicum 3 - Credits: 3
In this 3-credit practicum course you will learn about and apply the course competencies in an actual child care setting. The course competencies include: assess children's growth and development; implement the standards for quality early childhood education; integrate strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives; build meaningful curriculum; provide a developmentally appropriate environment; facilitate positive guidance strategies; evaluate one's own professional behaviors and practices; lead caregiving routines as curriculum; utilize positive interpersonal skills with children; utilize positive interpersonal skills with adults; Students must complete or have on file a Staff Health Report – Child Care Provider form (physical form) and current, valid Background Information Disclosure (BID) and Caregiver Background Check (annual Wisconsin and/or Minnesota as applicable) forms, as part of this course.

10307198 ECE: Administering an Early Childhood Education Program Credits: 3
This 3-credit course focuses on the administration of an early childhood education program. Course competencies include: integrate strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives; analyze the components of an ECE facility; design an ECE program; analyze the aspects of personnel supervision; outline financial components of an ECE program; apply laws and regulations related to an ECE facility; advocate for the early childhood profession.

10307204 Supervision/Administration of ECE Programs - Credits: 3
This is the first of six courses designed to prepare participants to receive a credential as a child care administrator. This course represents an overview of the roles and responsibilities of administrators of early childhood education programs and the groups with whom they have role relationship, with an emphasis on quality.

10307199 ECE: Practicum 4 - Credits: 3
In this 3-credit practicum course you will learn about and apply the course competencies in an actual child care setting. Course competencies include: analyze children's growth and development based on assessment; integrate strategies that support diversity and anti-bias perspectives; promote professional behaviors and practices; implement meaningful curriculum; create respectful, reciprocal relationships; evaluate early childhood education programs for quality; explore professional options in early childhood education. Students must complete or have on file a Staff Health Report – Child Care Provider form (physical form) and current, valid Background Information Disclosure (BID) and Caregiver Background Check (annual Minnesota as applicable) forms, as part of this course.

Recommended Electives:
10307129 ECE: Ethics, Advocacy, and Leadership - Credits: 3
This course will develop an understanding of the relationship between the Code of Ethical Conduct, child advocacy, and leadership in an early childhood setting.

10307183 ECE: Literature/Young Children - Credits: 3
This course will survey the range of literature and materials available to children. Criteria for selection, evaluation and use of these materials will also be explored. Investigations of the major genres of children's literature will allow for a thorough understanding of not only the distinctions of that genre, but also the benefits and considerations of the genre in literacy development and appreciation.