Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education

Program Overview
If you would like to teach kindergarten or preschool, or work in an education program for young children, then NECC’s Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education is for you.

At NECC, the Associate in Science Degree in Early Childhood Education will prepare you for a professional career in early childhood education. You will learn how children grow, develop, and learn through coursework and field experience. The emphasis is on the study of the young child as an individual, as part of a family system, and as a participant in group settings. An integral part of the program is practicum and field placement, which allows you to apply theory and skills under guidance and supervision in classrooms and educational programs.

NECC’s Early Childhood Education Program has been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Career Opportunities
Graduates will be able to pursue many career paths. You may choose to transfer on to a bachelor’s program, or directly enter the work force. If you choose to enter the workforce directly, you could work in area pre-schools, kindergartens, and Head Start programs.
### Courses

#### Year 1, Fall Semester
- **ECE101** Introduction to Early Childhood Education
- **ECE111** Preschool Curriculum
- **ECE181** ECE Field Placement I
- **ENG101** English Composition I
- **PSY101** Introduction to Psychology

#### Year 1, Spring Semester
- **ECE182** ECE Field Placement II
- **ECE201** Language/Reading Development in EC
- **ECE202** Expressive Learning Activities in EC Curriculum
- **ENG102** English Composition II
- **PSY203** Child Psychology

#### Year 1, Summer Semester
- **BIO101 & 102** Human Biology AND Lab OR **BIO111** Introductory Biology I OR **BIO121** Anatomy and Physiology I
- **COM111** Public Speaking

#### Year 2, Fall Semester
- **ECE203** Math/Science for Early Childhood Curriculum
- **ECE271** Early Childhood Education Practicum I
- **EDU102** Humanities/Fine Arts Elective Introduction to Special Education
- **MAT118** Mathematical Ideas I

#### Year 2, Spring Semester
- **ECE250** Seminar in Philosophy in ECE
- **ECE272** Early Childhood Education Practicum II
- **MAT119** Mathematical Ideas II
- **MAT118** Mathematical Ideas I

#### Year 2, Summer Semester
- **HIS101** U.S. History I OR **HIS102** U.S. History II
- **SCI111** Physical Science OR **SCI112** Physical Science II

### Additional Opportunities

As a student in this program, you will participate in a practicum or field placement where you will gain real world experience in a classroom or other early childhood education setting. These opportunities allow you to experience the early childhood education profession first-hand, and to grow as a person and a professional.

### Getting Started

Ready to get started? It's easy! Northern Essex has an open admissions policy, which means that if you have a high school diploma or GED/HISET or other state-approved equivalency credential, you are eligible to enroll at NECC. Just fill out an application, attend an orientation/assessment session, and then register for classes.

### Program Requirements

**CORI/CHRI/SORI:** Students interested in participating in this academic program may be required to undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check, a Criminal Records Central Repository (CHRI) check and/or a Sex Offender Record Information (SORI) check. For more information, visit [www.necc.mass.edu/corisori](http://www.necc.mass.edu/corisori).

Northern Essex Community College is committed to the success of every student. Students with legal issues in their background will meet with a committee as part of the CORI/CHRI/SORI process and will receive guidance and counseling throughout the review of their records. NECC personnel make every effort to help students prepare for careers in their chosen field. Students are encouraged to seek assistance and support.

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**Starting in fall 2014,** any new student enrolled in an associate degree program must take at least one course designated as intensive in each of NECC’s six core academic skills in order to graduate. [See www.necc.mass.edu/core-skills.](http://www.necc.mass.edu/core-skills)

**For more information**
Visit [www.necc.mass.edu/programs](http://www.necc.mass.edu/programs), contact Gail Feigenbaum at 978-556-3831 or gfeigenbaum@necc.mass.edu, or contact Enrollment Services at 978-556-3700.