

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (AAS)

Award: Associate of Applied Sciences Degree

No. of credits required: 60

For more information: Contact Kimberly Bell, 443-412-2648, kbell@harford.edu; or Admissions, 443-412-2109.

Program Description

This program prepares students for employment in the child care industry in a management/leadership position. Students will have the opportunity to specialize in teaching or in site management of a child care center. There are two required field placement experiences (135 hours each) in teaching in a child care program/school and site management of a child care center.

Students with significant work or volunteer experience in the field may be eligible to earn up to 12 credits by taking challenge exams and up to 12 credits through a portfolio assessment process (including up to 6 credits through independent studies). Students interested in pursuing credit for life experience should contact Kimberly Bell.

Program Goals

Upon completion of the Early Childhood AAS Degree Program, students will be able to

1. Demonstrate professional teaching behavior including effective communication.
2. Design and implement developmentally appropriate curriculum and instruction for a variety of students.
3. Identify developmental stages, influences on growth and development, and theories of learning.
4. Make decisions in accordance with legal and ethical standards.
5. Perform management tasks necessary to direct a child care center.
6. Summarize past and present practices pertaining to the care and education of young children.
7. Support children in learning appropriate behavior.

Employment Information

The intent of the AAS degree in Early Childhood Education is to prepare people for employment in the child care industry, potentially in a management/leadership position. According to the Department of Human Resources, expansion of the child care industry in Harford County is anticipated in both the non-profit and for-profit sectors.

Diversity Requirement

To satisfy the diversity requirement: Associate degree students must complete one 3-credit diversity course (D). It is recommended that students select one of the 3-credit (GB), (GH), (GI) course electives from those that also appear on the approved list of diversity course graduation requirements.

Degree Requirements

Recommended Course Sequence

Course	Title	Credits
First Semester		
EDUC 103	The Young Child ¹	3
EDUC 104	Materials and Curriculum in Early Childhood ¹	3
ENG 101	English Composition (GE)	3
PSY 101	General Psychology (GB)	3
Physical Education Elective		1
Credits		13
Second Semester		
CMST 101 or CMST 105	Speech Fundamentals (GI) or Interpersonal Communication (GI) (D)	3
Biological/Physical Lab Science Elective (GL) (https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#biological-physical-laboratory-science)		4
EDUC 108	Classroom Management: Early Childhood	3
MATH 102 or MATH 101	Contemporary Mathematics (GM) or College Algebra (GM)	3
Career-Based Elective (p. 2)		3
Credits		16
Third Semester		
EDUC 110 or EDUC 215	Infant and Toddler Curriculum or School-Age Child Care	3
EDUC 200	Introduction to Child Care Administration	3
EDUC 201	Field Placement I	3
EDUC 216	Child Health, Safety and Nutrition	3
EDUC 217	Introduction to Special Education ²	3
Physical Education Elective		1
Credits		16
Fourth Semester		
EDUC 202	Field Placement II	3
EDUC 208	Avenues to Children's Literacy	3
VPA 201	Visual and Performing Arts Survey (GH) (D)	3
General Education Elective (https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education)		3
Career-Based Elective (p. 2)		3
Credits		15
Total Credits		60

¹ EDUC 103 The Young Child and EDUC 104 Materials and Curriculum in Early Childhood meet the 90 classroom hours required by the Maryland State Department of Education's Office of Child Care.

² Students are required to participate in a thirty-hour field placement experience in addition to time spent in EDUC 113 Introduction to Early Childhood Education and EDUC 217 Introduction to Special Education. Field placement experiences take place sometime during regular school hours, generally between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. A criminal record check will be conducted prior to students entering a school setting.

Career-Based Electives

Choose two courses

Code	Title	Credits
EDUC 110	Infant and Toddler Curriculum	3
EDUC 113	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3
EDUC 207	Processes and Acquisition of Reading	3
EDUC 210	Children with Behavioral Challenges	3
EDUC 219	Everyday Classroom Assessment	3
EDUC 220	Teaching Methods for Differentiating Instruction/ Elementary	3
EDUC 215	School-Age Child Care	3
PSY 207	Educational Psychology	3
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology (GB) (D)	3
SOC 201	Marriage and the Family (GB) (D)	3
EDUC 191		
EDUC 192		
EDUC 193		
EDUC 194		

General Education Degree Requirements

Note: The following codes identify courses which satisfy the General Education Degree Requirements:

- Behavioral/Social Science (GB)
- English Composition (GE)
- Arts/Humanities (GH)
- Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues (GI)
- Biological/Physical Laboratory Science (GL)
- Mathematics (GM)
- Biological/Physical Science (GS)