Statement of Program Goals and Objectives:

Mission/Goals

The Associate in Science Degree in Early Childhood Education Master Teacher meets the educational requirements for the Master Teacher Permit on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Preschool Permit Matrix. This degree is designed to serve those students who want to work in the field of early childhood education and want to meet the requirements of Master Teacher on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Preschool Permit Matrix.

Early childhood education programs are in dire need of highly qualified early childhood professionals who have the knowledge and skills to work with infants and toddlers, children with special needs, and children who have been exposed to trauma.

· Centers are increasing the number of infants and toddlers they serve since the older preschool children are now attending transitional kindergarten.

· The number of children with special needs is increasing.

· At least 26% of 4-year-olds have experienced a traumatic experience.

To provide high quality early childhood education experiences for all children this Associate of Science Degree Early Childhood Education: Master Teacher prepares students to work with children in the aforementioned categories. With completion of this degree, students will have completed 12 units in specialized coursework as well as an adult supervision course.

After students complete this degree they will be able to:

1. Complete the coursework to obtain a Master Teacher level permit on the Child Development Permit Matrix from the State of California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

2. Apply critical thinking to research, observe, assess, evaluate, and synthesize early learning and child development information (for all children including specialized populations of children: infants and toddlers, and/or children with special needs, and/or children who have been exposed to trauma).

3. Utilize effective written and verbal communication techniques to ensure optimum communication with children, families, and professional colleagues (for all children including specialized populations of children: infants and toddlers, and/or children with special needs, and/or children who have been exposed to trauma)

4. Select, develop, and or use equipment, curriculum, assessment, materials, technology and or environments that are culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate (for all children including specialized populations of children: infants and toddlers, and/or children with special needs, and/or children who have been exposed to trauma)

In addition, this degree is a stackable degree to the Early Childhood Education Associate Degree for Transfer, meaning that if students complete one more ECE course, ECE 90 Student Teaching Practicum in Early Childhood Education, and 5 more courses for the 2024 CSU General Education and 4 more with the CALGETC pattern beginning for Fall 2025.

Students can also transfer directly to [EDvance](https://www.edvance.edu/) to earn an Early Childhood Education Bachelor’s Degree.

**Catalog Description**

The Associate in Science Degree in Early Childhood Education Master Teacher prepares students for mid-level career options in transitional kindergarten classrooms as an aide, infant and toddler programs. child care, preschool education, special education, and before and after school programs. Upon completion of this program, students will be eligible to apply for the Master Teacher level permit on the Child Development Permit Matrix from the State of California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Students will complete lower-division courses in child growth and development, principles and practices in early childhood education, curriculum, observation, assessment, child/family/ community relationships, diversity, health and safety, adult supervision, and specialization coursework.

To earn the Associate of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education Master Teacher:

1. Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of degree-applicable courses,

2. Minimum overall grade point average of 2.0,

3. Minimum grade of “C” (or “P”) for each course in the major, and

4. Completion of the California State General Education Pattern

5. Completion of the required 35 units of Early Childhood Education coursework.

**Course Requirements for the Associate in Science Degree in Early Childhood Education Master Teacher**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UNITS** | **COURSE #** | **COURSE NAME** |
| 3 | ECE 001 | Principles & Practices of Teaching Young Children |
| 3 | CHDEV/ECE 010 | Child Growth & Development |
| 3 | CHDEV/ECE 020 | Child, Family &Community |
| 3 | ECE 062 | Introduction to Curriculum |
| 3 | CHDEV/ECE 050 | Teaching in a Diverse Society |
| 3 | ECE 011 | Observation & Assessment |
| 3 | ECE 065 | Health, Safety & Nutrition in Early Childhood Programs |
| 2 | ECE 92 | Adult Supervision/Mentor Teacher |

**Choose Two 6-Unit Specializations:**

**Infant/Toddler Care and Education**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UNITS** | **COURSE #** | **COURSE NAME** |
| 3 | ECE 40 | Infant/Toddler Development |
| 3 | ECE 41 | Curriculum & Strategies for Infants/Toddlers |

**Trauma Informed Practitioner**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UNITS** | **COURSE #** | **COURSE NAME** |
| 3 | ECE 30 | Trauma Informed Practitioner: Foundations |
| 3 | ECE 31 | Trauma Informed Practitioner: Practices and Strategies |

**Children With Special Needs Care and Education**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UNITS** | **COURSE #** | **COURSE NAME** |
| 3 | ECE 55 | Introduction to Children with Special Needs |
| 3 | ECE 57 | Curriculum & Strategies for Children With Special Needs |

**Sequence of Program-Specific Courses**

**Fall-Year 1**

ECE 1

ECE 10

Specialization course

**Spring-Year 1**

ECE 20

ECE 62

Specialization course

**Summer Year 1**

ECE 65

**Fall-Year 2**

ECE 11

ECE 50

Specialization Course

**Spring-Year 2**

ECE 92

Specialization Course

The Associate of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education: Master Teacher is a 60-unit degree with 35 units in Early Childhood Education combined with the California State General Education Pattern of 18-20 units. Up to 6 units may be double counted toward the 35-unit major coursework in the Local/College pattern and the degree can be achieved in 60 units. Up to 13 elective units may be required to complete this degree.

**Mission, Curriculum, and Master Planning of the College and Higher Education in California**

This degree supports Los Medanos College’s Strategic Plan Goals, specifically Goal 3 and Goal 4.

**Goal 3:** **Increase opportunities that will prepare students to enter high-demand and living-wage occupational fields.**

Although the field of ECE does not pay incredibly high wages, the wages have increased substantially since COVID. The YMCA, one of the largest employers in East Contra Costa County for Early Childhood Education has salaries between $74,280 to $80,612 (inclusive of retirement and health care benefits) for early childhood educators with an associate degree. With this offering attaining an associate degree in early childhood education is more accessible.

**Goal 4: To better support students in accomplishing their academic and career goals – from entry to completion/transition – and to enhance course-level and program-level achievement, expand and deepen educational, workforce, and community partnerships.**

This degree was envisioned by the YMCA and in consultation with EDvance. In addition, this degree received full support from our advisory committee, which includes other employers in East Contra Costa County such as the Community Service Bureau for Head Start, Little Angels Preschool, and County Office of Education.

For students who want to stay in the Early Childhood Education field from birth to five, this degree meets the needs of those students, to earn an associate degree in early childhood education and be employable for both Title 5 and Title 22 early childhood education programs by providing the coursework necessary for students to earn the Master Teacher Permit issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

**Enrollment and Completer Projections**

We anticipate that 40 students will choose this pathway and we will have 10 completers each year. We believe we will capture additional students who don’t want to transfer and will choose to work towards this degree, rather than stopping at 12 Early Childhood Education units, which is the minimum unit requirement for Title 22 programs. We believe that the students will find the coursework more relevant to their work and more compelling than what is offered in the AS-T degree so more students will complete an associate degree rather than stopping their education.

**Connection to the College’s Existing Program Inventory**

Currently, we offer one degree and one certificate of achievement:

· Associate Degree for Transfer in Early Childhood Education

· Certificate of Achievement in Early Childhood Education.

Adding this degree to our current will meet the needs of our students and local employers.

**Other Colleges in the Service Area**

Both Diablo Valley College and Contra Costa College have a variety of options for degrees and certificates of achievement to meet the needs of their students and the local employers

**Diablo Valley College offers the following degrees and certificates:**

· Associate in Science - Early Childhood Education

· Associate in Science for Transfer - Early Childhood Education

· Certificate of Achievement - Associate Teacher

· Certificate of Achievement - Basic

· Certificate of Achievement – Early Childhood Education Practitioner

· Certificate of Achievement - Teacher

· Certificate of Achievement - Master Teacher

· Certificate of Achievement - Site Supervisor

**Contra Costa College offers the following degrees and certificates:**

· Associate in Scene in Early Childhood Education

· Associate of Science for Transfer Early Childhood Education for Transfer

· Associate of Science in Montessori Education Preschool Teacher

· Certificate of Achievement-Early Childhood Education

· Certificate of Achievement Associate Teacher – Preschool

· Certificate of Achievement Associate Teacher – School Age Children

· Certificate of Achievement Violence Intervention and Counseling

· Certificate of Achievement Montessori Education Introductory Level

· Certificate of Achievement Montessori Education Preschool Teacher

**Transfer Preparation**

This degree is stackable, meaning that if students complete one more ECE course, ECE 90 Student Teaching Practicum in Early Childhood Education, and 5 more courses for the 2024 CSU General Education and 4 more with the CALGETC pattern beginning for Fall 2025.