Early Childhood Education

A Hands-on Approach for Early Childcare Professionals

Early childhood Education (ECE) is a field of study for those who enjoy working with children and want to make a difference in their lives. ECE teachers work closely with children and their families to build a solid foundation for future learning experiences. If you are interested in starting a career in early childhood education, come and visit our program!

The ECE program allows students to complete the ECE State Certificate in 4 quarters and an AAS degree in 2 years. The state approved stackable certificates to provide students with the opportunity to earn certificates as they work toward their AAS degree. The stackable ECE certificates offer students the opportunity to specialize in Infant Toddler Care, School Age Care, Family Childcare and Administration.

The coursework is designed to enhance the student’s teaching experiences with young children. Students are provided with active learning experiences, application based assignments and time to collaborate with their peers. The ECE classes can also be used to fulfill MERIT training hours as part of the ongoing professional development requirement for licensing.

Graduates of the Early Childhood Education program at LWTech learn to:

- Develop, implement and evaluate age-appropriate programs for young children
- Observe and record child growth and development
- Plan curriculum activities based on the children’s interest and development
- Build connections with children and their families
- Implement strategies to guide behavior
- Supervise staff, plan and monitor a budget, and guide a program
- Follow both NAEYC and the Department of Early Learning (DEL) Standards
- Gain awareness of current issues and trends in the ECE field
- Develop goals to continue growing professionally
Program Highlights

The Early Childhood Education program at LWTech provides an avenue for those employed in childcare to earn an Early Childhood certificate or AAS degree. Students who are new to the field can gain valuable experience to begin their teaching career. The coursework features hybrid classes (in person and online) as well as evening and Saturday classes to accommodate working students. Morning classes are also an option. The required practicum work and assignments can be completed at the student's place of employment (licensed childcare) or at the on-campus Early Learning Center.

The faculty work with the students, both inside and outside the classroom setting as mentors, assisting them in their professional application of developmentally appropriate teaching strategies.

Learn from Industry Experts

Shanti Connors earned an M.A. and B.A. in Human Development, an A.S. in Human Services with an ECE option and has a Washington State K-8 Teaching Certificate. For over 20 years Shanti has worked with children and their families in a variety of programs, including Headstart, private preschools, elementary schools, cooperative preschool programs and parent education. She is also an approved M.E.R.I.T. trainer.

Ninder Gill has been teaching at LWTech since 2009. She has a wealth of experience and education in the Early Childhood Education field. She was a lead teacher and director at an urban center in Seattle and completed her Masters of Education at University of Washington, Bothell.

Brandi Renis earned an A.S. ECE, A.A. Business, B.S. Human Services and Management and an M.A. in Teaching and Learning with Technology. She has experience as a preschool teacher, director and licensor.

Career Opportunities

The program prepares students for multiple employment opportunities including:

- Childcare provider for children from birth to 8 years
- Preschool Lead or Assistant Teacher
- Childcare Program Supervisor
- Childcare Center Director
- Family Child Care Provider
- Professional Nanny
- Educational Assistant in elementary schools

Find out more!

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