

2026 - 2027 Early Childhood Education: Licensure

Associate in Applied Science Degrees

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS | VARIED SEMESTER LENGTHS | NUMEROUS PROGRAMS | FINANCIAL AID



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Early Childhood Education: Licensure

The Early Childhood Education curriculum prepares individuals to work with children from birth through eight in diverse learning environments. Students will combine learned theories with practice in actual settings with young children under the supervision of qualified teachers.

Course work includes child growth and development; physical/nutritional needs of children; care and guidance of children; and communication skills with families and children. Students will foster the cognitive/language, physical/motor, social/emotional, and creative development of young children.

Graduates are prepared to plan and implement developmentally appropriate programs in early childhood settings. Employment opportunities include child development and child care programs, preschools, public and private schools, recreational centers, Head Start Programs, and school-age programs.

Specific Requirements

1. General college admission requirements.
2. According to GS 110-91, "No person shall be an operator of nor be employed in a child care facility who has been convicted of a crime involving child neglect, child abuse, or moral turpitude, or who is a habitually excessive user of alcohol or who illegally uses narcotic or other impairing drugs, or who is mentally or emotionally impaired to an extent that may be injurious to children."
3. Prior to registering for EDU 284 and being placed in a practicum site, students must submit evidence of a Childcare Background Check from the Division of Child Development Early Education Criminal Background Check Unit (<https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Home/DCDEE-Sections/Criminal-Background-Check-Unit/Basic-Information/dhhs-criminal-background-checks>), as well as a Tuberculin Test and Health Questionnaire.

State wide articulation agreement in place with UNC system schools offering Early Childhood/Birth-Kindergarten Degrees. See advisor for specifics.

Total Cost Estimate

Tuition per Semester (NC Resident)	\$1,216.00 (16+ credit hours) \$76.00/credit hour (1-15 hours)
Computer Use and Technology Fee	\$48/semester
Activity Fee	Fall and Spring semesters only, Main campus and Online, \$45.00
CAPS Fee (Campus Access, Parking and Security)	\$30/semester
Matriculation Fee	\$25/semester
Student Insurance	\$2/Semester

Additional Fees including books may incur, please check A-B Tech website for more detail: <https://abtech.edu/program/early-childhood-education-licensure-track-aas-cost-estimate>

Have you applied for Financial aid? Please visit A-B Tech website for instructions: <https://abtech.edu/future-students/financial-aid/applying-aid>

Career Opportunities Early Childhood Education

A.A.S. Degree	National Salary Range: \$35,330 - \$58,580 Local Salary Range: \$29,650 - \$37,780
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Salaries may vary based on size of business, Licensure, and other factors.

For first-semester advising questions, contact advising@abtech.edu

Courses requiring a grade of "C" or better: ART, BIO, COM, EDU, ENG, MAT, PHY, PSY, and SOC

	Course Prefix	Course Name	Credit Hours
First Semester	EDU 119	Intro to Early Childhood Educ	4
	EDU 144	Child Development I	3
	EDU 145	Child Development II	3
	EDU 146	Child Guidance	3
	ENG 111	Writing and Inquiry	3
Second Semester	EDU 151	Creative Activities	3
	EDU 153	Health, Safety & Nutrition	3
	EDU 221	Children w/ Exceptionalities	3
	EDU 234	Infants, Toddlers & Twos	3
	MAT 143	Quantitative Literacy	3
Third Semester	ART 111	Art Appreciation	3
	COM 231	Public Speaking	3
Fourth Semester	BIO 110	Principles of Biology	4
	EDU 131	Child, Family & Community	3
	EDU 216	Foundations of Education	3
	EDU 250	Praxis Preparation I	3
	ENG 112	Writing/Research in the Disc.	3
Fifth Semester	EDU 280	Language and Literacy Experiences	3
	EDU 284	Early Childhood Capstone Prac	4
	PHY 110	Conceptual Physics	3
	PHY 110A	Conceptual Physics Lab	1
	PSY 150	General Psychology	3
	SOC 210	Intro to Sociology	3
Program Totals:			70

For More Information:

Contact Tamara Wolfe by email at tamaraewolfe@abtech.edu or by phone at 828-398-7372

This associate degree is part of a Uniform Articulation Agreement with the UNC System. Upon completion of this track students may transfer to a Birth-Kindergarten Licensure program. Students will transfer 60 credit hours (31 early childhood/ 29 general education to the university level.