

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Associate of Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education associate degree program is designed to prepare students to become highly qualified teachers, assistant teachers, or family day care providers in professional child-care for children ages birth through eight years. Students will gain a broad understanding of the specific needs of young children and develop strategies for meeting those needs. Students may choose to continue their education at any four-year institution in New Mexico. The NMSU Grants program includes the lower division courses required for entry into the Teacher Education Program (TEP), a baccalaureate program at New Mexico State University. Completion of this program does NOT guarantee admission into a Teacher Education Program at a four-year institution. Early in their second year of study at NMSU Grants, students should contact the four-year institution they have chosen to obtain application information.

NOTE: This program requires that students take and pass a security background check in order to take the field experience and practicum courses. Past criminal violations may prevent a student from completing a degree in the education program.

Certificate of Early Childhood Education

This certificate is awarded for those who have completed all the Early Childhood Courses and wish to obtain entrance into a TEP or Teacher Education Program at NMSU Las Cruces or any University in the state of New Mexico. This Certificate is embedded in the Early Childhood Education Associate Degree.

NOTE: This program requires that students take and pass a security background check in order to take the field experience and practicum courses. Past criminal violations may prevent a student from completing a degree in the education program.

Child Development Certificate

This Child Development Certificate indicates completion of the basic early childhood courses that allow a student to meet the professional requirements for individuals already working in a classroom setting with infants and toddlers or preschool children. This professional certification serves as an equivalent of a state awarded CDC certificate issued by the New Mexico Office of Child Development. For more information, contact the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Development at (505) 277-7900.