



## HCC Early Childhood Program (AS.CHILD)

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1. What courses do I need to complete for the early childhood program? Do I need to see an advisor?

- The early childhood program requires the completion of 60 credits. Please contact Monique Mavour, the AS Early Childhood Advisor at (813) 253-7795 or [mmavour@hccfl.edu](mailto:mmavour@hccfl.edu) to review program requirements.

#### 2. Where are classes offered?

- The early childhood program is based at the Ybor campus <http://www.hccfl.edu/yc.aspx>. Although there are no early childhood courses currently being offered at other campuses, you may complete general education requirements at any campus. You may complete your practicum hours at the Ybor and/or Dale Mabry campus child development centers.

#### 3. Does HCC offer any early childhood courses online?

- DEP2102 (Child Development) is offered as a fully online course. EEC1401 (Community & Family in EC) and EEC1308 (Enhancing Intell Dev) are periodically offered online. Most early childhood courses are hybrid courses. Hybrid courses require a combination of in class and online sessions.

#### 4. I'm already working in a child development program. I have my CDA and other certificates. May I use them toward an AS degree in the program?

- You will be awarded 9 credits toward your AS degree if you have a staff credential (National CDA, ECPC, FCCPC, etc.). Submit your DCF training transcript documenting your receipt of a staff credential. Access your transcript through the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Child Care Training website <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care>
- Scan and email your DCF training transcript to Dr. Parsons at [gparsons@hccfl.edu](mailto:gparsons@hccfl.edu). You may also leave your DCF training transcript at the Ybor Child Development Center (YCDC-101).
- Dr. Parsons will complete the paperwork to have the 9 credits (EEC1300, EEC1311, and EEC1941) placed on your HCC transcript.

#### 5. I have a Director Credential. Can I use this toward an AS degree in your program?

- Three credits will be placed on your transcript for EEC1521 (a required course in the AS.CHILD program) if you completed CHD1800 (a Director Credential course) at HCC.
- Effective SU/16, students may use EEC1521 to fulfill the academic requirement for the Director Credential. Additional requirements are noted on the Director Credential application form

#### 6. What are the requirements for the practicum courses?

- You are required to complete 2 practicum courses (EEC1941, EEC1943). You will not have to take Practicum 1 (EEC1941) if you already have your staff credential (see #4 above).
- Each practicum course requires documentation of 240 hours within a licensed child development program. Twenty of those hours must be completed at one of HCC's child development centers over 4 visits within the semester you are registered for practicum. The remaining 220 hours may be completed in any licensed setting serving children ages birth through eight. You may document hours completed within 12 months of the last day of your practicum course. For example, if your practicum course ends on 5/8/17, you may document 220 hours completed within the past year (from 5/8/16).

- Practicum requires the completion of a professional portfolio.
- EEC1521 is the pre-requisite for Practicum 1 (EEC1941). EEC1300 is the co-requisite. This means that you must complete EEC1300 during the same semester as Practicum 1 (EEC1941) if you have not completed it in a previous semester.
- You are required to complete a Level 2 criminal background check, per Florida's guidelines <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/backgroundscreening/> Results of the background screening must be received before you begin your practicum hours at the child development center.

#### 7. Do I have a staff credential if I already have a degree?

- You may already qualify for a staff credential <http://ccrain.fl-dcf.org/documents/6/467.pdf#page=1> if you already have a college degree. You will need to complete 6 credits in early childhood if you have a degree outside of the field. Documentation of 480 hours working with young children is required.

#### 8. Will I automatically have my staff credential once I graduate from the HCC early childhood program?

- Not automatically. You will need to submit a staff credential application <http://ccrain.fl-dcf.org/documents/6/467.pdf#page=1> (with your HCC transcript) to DCF. The credential will then be recorded on your DCF training transcript.

#### 9. What is the difference between a staff credential and a CDA? How do I qualify?

- Every licensed child care facility must have 1 person on staff with a staff credential for every 20 children in care. This is the minimum requirement <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care/staff-credential> in Florida. Many facilities require all teacher to have a staff credential.
- The CDA (Child Development Associate®) is 1 type of staff credential. It is a national credential issued by the Council for Professional Recognition <http://www.cdacouncil.org/>
- Individuals also qualify for a staff credential if they have the following educational qualifications:
  - B.A., B.S. or advanced degree in 1 of the following areas: Early Childhood Education/Child Development, Pre-K or Primary Education, Preschool Education, Family/Consumer Sciences, Exceptional Student Education, Special Education, Mental Disabilities, Specific Learning Disabilities, Physically Impaired, Varying Exceptionalities, Emotional Disabilities, Visually Impaired, Hearing Impaired, Speech-Language Pathology or Elementary Education with certification to teach any age birth through 6th grade
  - A.S., A.A. degree or higher in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
  - Associate's degree or higher with at least 6 college credit hours in early childhood education/child development and at least 480 hours experience in a child care setting serving children ages birth through eight (8).
- Students in HCC's early childhood program qualify for a staff credential because of their educational qualifications. You simply have to submit a staff credential application <http://ccrain.fl-dcf.org/documents/6/467.pdf#page=1> to DCF upon graduation (see #8 above).

#### 10. What educational options do I have after I graduate with my AS.CHILD degree?

- Many of our early childhood students are now pursuing baccalaureate (B.A., B.S.) degrees. There are B.S. and B.A. degrees available in early childhood education and related fields. Some of the programs are entirely online, while others may provide hybrid courses. **Each program is different.** It is very important to look into the specific pre-requisites for the program you are interested in. Requirements differ based on the program's focus (eg., early childhood, exceptional education, child and family studies, Pre-K to Grade 3, etc.) and the University itself.

#### Contact Information

Advising: Monique Mavour, (813) 253-7795 [mmavour@hccfl.edu](mailto:mmavour@hccfl.edu)

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