Vision: Central Arizona College’s Early Childhood Education Department is a model of excellence for early childhood professional development.

Mission: The mission of the Central Arizona College Early Childhood Education Department is to engage students in innovative and effective learning experiences that positively impact their lives as well as children, families and the community.

Conceptual Framework:
The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Department at Central Arizona College (CAC) improves the quality of early childhood programs by providing high quality, responsive, affordable and accessible education to a diverse community. The Department provides clear pathways that are individualized for each student, including directors and family child care providers, in the areas of infant through school age care. Students in the ECE program are supported in finding the academic and financial resources necessary to be successful.

Students who participate in ECE coursework are impacted by the core values of diversity, developmentally appropriate practice, ethics, and theory and philosophy, promoted by the program. Students demonstrate these core values by showing an understanding of how to work with ALL children and their diverse needs. Students know how to provide developmentally appropriate activities through compliance with the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards. Students learn and practice professional ethics. They understand early childhood theories and philosophies and how to put them into practice.

The instructors in the ECE Department are committed to student success. They teach classes in a variety of modalities and employ a variety of teaching techniques to support diverse learners. Instructors are known for being flexible and providing individualized support to meet the specific needs of students. They encourage students to progress in their professional development.

The Central Arizona College Early Childhood Education Department is continually evaluating and updating the course work and program to insure that the core concepts and content are meeting the needs of the community stakeholders.

Rev. 3-2016