



Early Childhood Education

Vision and Mission

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 department demonstrates a commitment to the [CAC's Vision](#) to be Central Arizona's premier choice in education and career excellence. The department strives to meet the College's Mission to serve as a **TRUE Learning** community by empowering our students and staff to succeed.

Teaching. Reaching. Understanding. Empowering. Learning.

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Department at Central Arizona College (CAC) ensures student success by providing guided pathways to certificate and degree completion for early childhood professionals in accordance with the National Association for the Education of Young Children [Standards](#).

The department engages in continuous improvement by evaluating and updating courses and programs of study to ensure the core concepts and content meet the needs of students, the workforce, and community stakeholders. The department seeks to improve the quality of early learning programs for young children by providing responsive, affordable, and accessible education opportunities. The staff and faculty are committed to the following Core Values.

Diversity and Equity Support equitable access to higher education by creating accessible pathways and educating students about transfer options. Share financial resources including scholarships and grant programs.

Reciprocal Relationships Model and support relationship based interactions and recognize and address implicit and explicit bias and encourage understanding for the diverse perspectives of others.

Excellence in Teaching Provide courses in a variety of modalities and employ a variety of teaching techniques to support diverse learners. Demonstrate flexibility and provide individualized supports to meet the unique needs of diverse students, including personal and academic skill development and access to professional resources.

Advocacy, Ethics and Professionalism Engage and participate in local, state and national advocacy efforts, and empower students to be advocates for children, families, and the early childhood profession.

Supporting Excellence and Equity for Diverse Students



CAC ECE Students are provided with opportunities to share **SEEDS** of knowledge and learn and grow as professionals by developing critical knowledge and skills. The practical application of standards and competencies is enhanced through hands-on experiences in a variety of settings and age groups. These experiences are beneficial in developing relationships with children, families and other professionals and within the community. Students who participate in ECE coursework and practicums are confident in demonstrating the following **Core Values**.

Diversity and Equity- Students understand they have a professional obligation to [Advance Equity](#) and embrace diversity. Students demonstrate an understanding of how to work with ALL children and are responsive to the cultural and linguistic diversity within families and communities.

Reciprocal Relationships- Students understand how relationships are critical in their work with young children and know how to build reciprocal relationships with families.

Developmentally Appropriate and Culturally Responsive Practices - Students recognize and value the unique development of each child and are able to plan and implement intentional, [developmentally appropriate](#) and culturally responsive learning experiences and environments.

Advocacy, Ethics and Professionalism- Students know about and follow the [NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct and Statement of Commitment](#). Students understand how to comply with relevant [Arizona Early Childhood Professional Standards](#) and [Licensing Requirements](#) and can advocate for the early childhood profession.



“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you’ve imagined.”

-Henry David Thoreau