



Program Curriculum

Early childhood is a critical time in the developmental years. Careers in this field provide an opportunity to make a significant impact in the lives of children and families.

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program at Central Arizona College is an excellent choice for anyone who is pursuing credit for a Certificate of Completion, an Associates of Applied Science degree or an Associate of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education. We offer several pathways for students who wish to transfer coursework towards a Bachelor's Degree.

We offer a variety of instructional formats including:

- On-site classes (in Pinal County)
- Online classes
- Distance Learning using interactive technology

Program Requirements

Background Clearances and TB Testing Information:

The State of Arizona Department of Public Safety Level One Fingerprint Clearance (Fingerprint Identity Verified Print (IVP) card and documentation of a negative Tuberculin (TB) Skin Test are required by child care programs and school districts for most field experiences.

There are a number of courses throughout the ECE program that require on-site observations and field experiences. The capstone course: ECE 229 Early Childhood Practicum requires 100 hours of field experience throughout the length of the semester and you must have an IVP to apply for the course.

We recommend that you obtain your fingerprint clearance and TB test as early as possible in your program of study. Your background clearance must valid for the entire semester you are enrolled in a course that requires field experience.

Be sure to keep a file of your original clearances and TB test results where it is easily accessible.

To obtain a Fingerprint Clearance Packet:

You may apply for an initial or renewal IVP fingerprint clearance card electronically at: <http://fieldprintarizona.com/>

If you are outside of Arizona, or do not have access to an internet connected device, you may alternatively obtain an IVP application packet by requesting an IVP application packet directly

from DPS by calling (602) 223-2279 or faxing your request to (602) 223-2947. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The electronic application will potentially reduce processing time by three to four weeks.

When applying electronically or requesting an application packet please make sure you specify that you need the Level I “IVP” application packet. A regular (non-Level I) fingerprint clearance card will NOT work for those working in educational settings.

According to the Arizona Department of Public Safety:

A higher eligibility standard is required to receive a Level I card than what is needed for a non-Level I card. When an application is received, if the applicant is eligible for a Level I card it will be issued automatically. If the applicant is not eligible for a Level I card, a non-Level I card will be issued. All cards are valid for six years.

The following programs require a Level I fingerprint clearance card:

- DES CERTIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDER & NCRP (ARS §§ 41-1964 & 46-141)
- DES CCR&R REGISTERED HOME (ARS § 41-1967.01)

Source: <http://www.azdps.gov/Services/Fingerprint/>

To complete the Tuberculin (TB) Skin Test:

The Tuberculin Skin Test is performed by injecting tuberculin purified protein derivative (PPD) into the inner surface of the forearm. The skin test reaction should be read between 48 and 72 hours after administration. After completion of the initial test, annual update of TB Skin Test may be required.

For PPD (TB Skin Test) resources you may consult with your primary care provider, contact your local Public Health Department, or visit Pinal County Public Health Services website at <http://pinalcountyyaz.gov/PUBLICHEALTH/Pages/home.aspx>

Notice

The Central Arizona College Early Childhood Education program does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, handicap/disability, sexual orientation, age, or veteran status in the application, participation, access and treatment of persons in instructional programs and activities. The CAC ECE Program reserves the right to change, without notice, any materials, information, curriculum, requirements or regulations.