



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

# Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement *in*

Early Childhood Teacher Education



## Chart Your Career Course

There is more than one path to a fulfilling career, and the road to a bachelor's degree can start at a community college. Colorado's public colleges and universities have created a seamless transfer process that makes it easy and stress-free for you to design an education journey that will meet your needs. Select a 60-credit Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree with Designation (DwD) program that aligns with your interests, with the guarantee that it will put you on the fast track to graduation if you choose to pursue a bachelor's degree.

## Introduction

Helping to shape small minds, while spending your day playing with children - a career in early childhood education can be serious fun! Teachers in early childhood settings have an enormous impact on the lives of young children, helping their developing brains build critical skills like curiosity, persistence, and collaboration that will support success in kindergarten and beyond. Early childhood educators monitor developmental progression while creating a safe, engaging environment for play-based learning to occur.

An Early Childhood Education teaching degree can lead to a role as a classroom teacher, a center director, or an advocate for this important industry on which many families rely. In an associate program in Early Childhood Teacher Education, you will study developmental milestones, learn observation techniques, and explore culturally responsive and engaging teaching practices. This degree is transferable to universities offering bachelor's degrees in Early Childhood Education.

### Degree Pathway

The first year of an Early Childhood Teacher Education program will include math and English courses to meet general education requirements. The completion of introductory math and English courses in your first year is proven to greatly increase your likelihood of crossing the graduation stage, boosting your momentum along the academic pathway you select. Other general education courses on your pathway will cover topics in Arts and Humanities, History, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Natural and Physical Sciences.

Program-specific courses may begin as soon as your first semester. These courses will become more advanced as you move along your degree pathway. Through this sequence of courses, your knowledge of early childhood education concepts and instructional methods will grow and deepen. Coursework will include Guidance Strategies for Young Children, Curriculum Methods and Techniques, Child Growth and Development, and Working Parents, Families, and Communities. After completing a 60-credit associate degree, your degree pathway can continue with guaranteed transfer to a college that offers bachelor's degrees.

### Knowledge & Skills

- Child development
- Child psychology
- Observation skills
- Interpersonal communication
- Behavioral techniques

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## Participating Institutions

### Earn an Associate Degree with Designation (DwD)

*From one of these Colorado public community/junior colleges*

**Aims Community College** [A.A. Early Childhood Education]

**Arapahoe Community College** [A.A. Early Childhood Teacher Education]

**Colorado Mountain College** [A.A. Early Childhood Teacher Education]

**Colorado Northwestern Community College** [A.A. Early Childhood Education]

**Community College of Aurora** [A.A. Early Childhood Education]

**Community College of Denver** [A.A. Early Childhood Teacher Education]

**Front Range Community College** [A.A. Early Childhood Teacher Education]

**Lamar Community College** [A.A. Early Childhood Education]

**Morgan Community College** [A.A. Early Childhood Teacher Education]

**Northeastern Junior College** [A.A. Early Childhood Education]

**Otero College** [A.A. Early Childhood Education]

**Pikes Peak Community College** [A.A. Early Childhood Education]

**Pueblo Community College** [A.A. Early Childhood Education]

**Red Rocks Community College** [A.A. Early Childhood Education]

**Trinidad State College** [A.A. Early Childhood Teacher Education]

### Earn a Bachelor's Degree

*From one of these Colorado public four-year institutions*

**Adams State University**  
[B.A. Early Childhood Education]

**Colorado Mesa University**  
[B.A. Early Childhood Education – Early Childhood Special Education]<sup>1</sup>

**Colorado State University-Ft Collins**  
[B.S. Early Childhood Education]

**Colorado State University-Pueblo**  
[B.S. Early Childhood Education]

**Fort Lewis College**  
[B.A. Early Childhood Education]

**Metropolitan State University of Denver**  
[B.A. Early Childhood Education]

**University of Colorado Colorado Springs**  
[B.A. Inclusive Early Childhood Education]

**University of Colorado Denver**  
[B.A. Education and Human Development – Early Childhood]

**University of Northern Colorado**  
[B.A. Early Childhood Teacher Education (Birth-Grade 3)]

<sup>1</sup> Colorado Mesa University also accepts the AA Liberal Arts with Early Childhood Education emphasis from Western Colorado Community College.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER EDUCATION

## Prescribed Curriculum

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Required Courses that Fulfill General Education Requirements			33 CREDIT HOURS
	Credit Hours	Community College Course No.	Course Title or Category
<b>(Written) Communication</b>	3	ENG 121	English Composition I ( <a href="#">GT-CO1</a> )
	3	ENG 122	English Composition II ( <a href="#">GT-CO2</a> )
<b>Mathematics</b>	4	MAT 120	Mathematics for the Liberal Arts ( <a href="#">GT-MA1</a> )
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities</b>	3	MUS 120 or ART 110 or THE 105	Music Appreciation ( <a href="#">GT-AH1</a> ) or Art Appreciation ( <a href="#">GT-AH1</a> ) or Theater Appreciation ( <a href="#">GT-AH1</a> )
	3	LIT 115 or LIT 255	Introduction to Literature ( <a href="#">GT-AH2</a> ) or Children's Literature ( <a href="#">GT-AH2</a> )
<b>History</b>	3	HIS 121 or HIS 122	U. S. History to Reconstruction ( <a href="#">GT-HI1</a> ) or U.S. History Since Civil War ( <a href="#">GT-HI1</a> )
<b>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</b>	3	GEO 105	World Regional Geography ( <a href="#">GT-SS2</a> )
	3	PSY 101	General Psychology ( <a href="#">GT-SS3</a> )
<b>Natural &amp; Physical Sciences</b>	4	SCI 155	Integrated Science I with lab ( <a href="#">GT-SC1</a> )
	4	SCI 156*	Integrated Science II with lab ( <a href="#">GT-SC1</a> )
Additional Required Courses**			18 CREDIT HOURS
	Credit Hours	Course No.	Course Title
	3	ECE 101	Intro to Early Childhood Ed
	3	ECE 102	Intro to ECE Lab Techniques
	3	ECE 103	Guidance Strategies for Young Children
	3	ECE 220	Curriculum Methods and Techniques
	3	ECE 238	Child Growth and Development
	3	ECE 256	Working with Parents, Families, and Communities
Electives: Nine credits determined by the receiving 4-year institution. See <a href="#">CDHE website</a> for additional information.			9 CREDIT HOURS

<b>Total</b>	<b>60 CREDIT HOURS</b>
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\*Students must pass with a C- or higher in BOTH SCI 155 & 156 to satisfy the GT Pathways science requirement.

\*\*Please note: if these credits are *not* required for the *major* at a receiving 4-year institution, they will be applied to the Bachelor's degree as elective credit towards *graduation*. Please check with the receiving institution to determine in which way these courses will be applied.

# Course Planner

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEGREE PLAN

STUDENT NAME

Institution:				
Semester	Course No.	Course Title	Credit Hours	Completed
<i>Total Credits Completed</i>				

Institution:				
Semester	Course No.	Course Title	Credit Hours	Completed
<i>Total Credits Completed</i>				

Institution:				
Semester	Course No.	Course Title	Credit Hours	Completed
<i>Total Credits Completed</i>				

Institution:				
Semester	Course No.	Course Title	Credit Hours	Completed
<i>Total Credits Completed</i>				

# Contractual Language

## INTRODUCTION

A statewide transfer articulation agreement identifies the community college courses students need to take in order to graduate from a community college with a 60-credit Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree with designation (DwD). Students are responsible for informing the admissions counselor or transfer advisor at their receiving four-year institution that they are completing a DwD.

It is important for students to understand that completion of an AA or AS degree within two years requires them to complete an average of 15 credits per semester (or 30 credits per year). Also, research shows that students who take classes in their major area within their first 30 credit hours are more likely to persist and graduate.

The guarantees and limitations below describe the minimum requirements to which all participating institutions have agreed. Students who believe an institution is not meeting the guarantees described below can file a complaint with the [CDHE](#).

## GUARANTEES

Students who complete a DwD pursuant to the prescribed curriculum in this statewide transfer articulation agreement **and** pass all 60 credits with a C- or higher **and** are admitted to the receiving institution's corresponding degree program (see cover page) are guaranteed the following:

1. Junior standing with no more than 66 remaining credits to meet the graduation requirements for the baccalaureate degree program covered by this articulation agreement.
2. Completion of the receiving institution's lower division general education requirements as defined by the GT Pathways curriculum.
3. The same graduation requirements as students who begin and complete this degree program at the four-year institution.
4. Admission to all Colorado public baccalaureate awarding institutions (*except* Colorado School of Mines) is guaranteed to applicants who have completed any AA or AS degree from a Colorado public two-year institution after high school graduation, provided certain requirements are met. To see these requirements, please refer to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education's [Admissions Standards Policy](#), section titled "Guaranteed Transfer Admissions" [here](#). Please note: Students transferring to a University of Colorado institution (Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver) must satisfy the CU System's MAPS (Minimum Academic Preparation Standards) requirement.
5. Per the Commission's [Prior Learning Assessment](#) policy, section 2.07, and pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes §23-1-108 (7)(b)(II)(A), "a state institution of higher education that admits as a junior a student who holds an associate of arts degree, associate of applied science degree, or associate of science degree that is the subject of a statewide degree transfer agreement shall not require the student to complete any additional courses to fulfill general education requirements", and that the receiving institution of higher education is responsible for the total cost of tuition "for any credit hours that exceed the total credit hours required for a native student or that extend the total time to receive the degree beyond that required for a native student".
6. The Commission's Prior Learning Assessment policy also states "every Colorado public institution of higher education shall accept in transfer from within the institution and from other state institutions of higher education prior learning assessment credit awarded for GT Pathways requirements" (section 3.01), and "Colorado public institutions of higher education shall not prohibit students from meeting general education/GT Pathways requirements with prior learning assessment credit" (section 3.02).

## EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER EDUCATION

### LIMITATIONS

1. Students must meet all admission and application requirements at the receiving institution including the submission of all required documentation by stated deadlines. Students are advised to consult with the Office of Admissions at the institution to which they intend to transfer.
2. Only courses with grades of C- or higher are guaranteed to transfer.
3. Admission to a receiving institution does not guarantee enrollment in a specific degree program. Some programs at receiving institutions have controlled entry due either to space limitations or academic requirements.
4. The credit and course transfer guarantees described in this agreement apply to the specific degree programs covered by this agreement (see cover page). If the student changes majors, receiving institutions will evaluate application of the courses designated in this agreement to other degree programs on a course-by-course basis.
5. Students are allowed to use credits awarded by exam, such as AP (Advanced Placement) and IB (International Baccalaureate), as long as those exams are listed on the exam tables [here](#), or may use challenge exams to fulfill GT Pathways requirements (not necessarily major requirements) and those credits are guaranteed to transfer and apply to GT Pathways requirements at the receiving institution per the Colorado Commission on Higher Education's Policy I, X: Prior Learning Assessment. See the [entire policy](#) for more information.
6. The receiving institution shall accept all applicable credits earned within ten years of transfer to the receiving institution. Credits earned more than ten years earlier will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis.
7. All the courses a student needs to take in the associate degree program covered by this statewide transfer articulation agreement are listed in the prescribed curriculum. Course substitutions are allowed as long as the student and both the sending and receiving institutions agree to the substitution; such agreement should be documented in writing and the student should keep a copy until the baccalaureate degree is conferred. Note that if students substitute a course, then this is no longer a statewide agreement and some of the guarantees are only for the receiving institution that agreed to the substitution. **Any additional courses taken in the discipline covered by this agreement might not count toward the requirements of the major at the receiving institution.** Students can avoid this problem by taking no more courses in the discipline beyond those identified in the prescribed curriculum. STUDENTS SHOULD CONSULT THE PROGRAM ADVISOR AT THE RECEIVING INSTITUTION FOR GUIDANCE. Any advisement from an academic advisor should be obtained IN WRITING.
8. Students seeking K-12 teacher licensure may not use this agreement because teacher preparation programs have different requirements for educator licensure.

*Because of the limitations above, students must consult with the Office of Admissions at the institution to which they are transferring.*

### Addendum to Agreement

Students who do not complete an AA/AS degree can use the prescribed curriculum in a statewide transfer articulation agreement as a common advising guide for transfer to all public institutions that offer the designated bachelor's degree program.

Please note the following:

1. Students are guaranteed application of general education courses completed with a C- or higher in the prescribed curriculum in this agreement up to the established maximum in each GT Pathways content area.
2. Except in special cases (e.g., the partial completion of a required sequence of courses or variation in the number of credit hours institutions award for course equivalents), students can expect that courses specified within the prescribed curriculum in this agreement, successfully completed with a C- or higher, will fulfill the relevant course requirements in the designated major.
3. Receiving institutions will evaluate all courses other than those specified in this agreement on a course-by-course basis.

Students transferring without a completed AA/AS degree must consult with the Office of Admissions at the institution to which they are transferring to review the issues identified above, and to make sure they meet all admission and application requirements at the receiving institution, including the submission of all required documentation by stated deadlines.

This agreement will be reviewed by disciplinary faculty no less frequently than every five years. *The agreement will remain in force until such time as it is formally modified or terminated.*

## EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER EDUCATION

The Department of Higher Education – in consultation with the General Education Council – may make minor technical changes to this agreement on behalf of participating institutions. The most current version of the agreement can be found on the [CDHE website](#). Institutions that wish to join or withdraw from this agreement should consult the Division of Academic Affairs at the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Terms and processes are outlined in the Commission’s policy on Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways, available at the [CDHE website](#).

A paper or hard copy of this document may not be the most current version of the agreement—check the [website](#) of the Colorado Department of Higher Education for the most current version.

*Signatures from institutional/system Chief Academic Officers for all participating institutions, as listed on the cover page, have signed this agreement. Signatures of Chief Academic Officers, who possess or have been delegated authority to enter into this agreement on behalf of their institution or institutions (in some cases by the institutional or system governing board), are on file in the Division of Academic Affairs at the Colorado Department of Higher Education.*





**Prepared by the Colorado Department of Higher Education  
under the Executive Leadership of Dr. Angie Paccione.**

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*In partnership with Colorado Institutions of Higher Education*

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**HISTORY OF REVISIONS TO AGREEMENT:**

- 2015-08-07– Approved by CCHE.
- 2016-08 – Cover page revised: added only CCs who are participating and degree titles; some formatting adjustments.
- 2016-12 – Formatting edits made.
- 2017-01 – Revised MSU Denver’s qualifying courses for elective credit; revised cover page formatting.
- 2017-01-11 – Added Lamar Community College to the cover page.
- 2017-03 Revisions made to Introduction, Guarantees, and Limitation sections.
- 2017-05 MSUD course updates.
- 2017-09 UCD course updates (electives).
- 2017-12 Additional Required Courses and 9 Elective Credit Hours revised. CMU added to agreement.
- 2018-08 UCD advisor/contact updates.
- 2018-10 CSU-Pueblo added to agreement. Change in CMU elective requirements.
- 2018-12 – Revisions made to Introduction and Limitations sections. Paragraphs 5 & 6 added to Guarantees section to reflect changes made to CCHE Prior Learning Assessment policy. Updated advisor contact for ASU.
- 2021-04 – UCCS added to the agreement.
- 2021-06 – Participating institutions revised: updated name of Otero College and Trinidad State College.

Revised: June 2021