



**2017-2018 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**  
**Degree: Associate of Arts**  
**Major: Liberal Arts**  
**Emphasis: Early Childhood Education**

**About This Major . . .**

This degree is designed for students who intend to continue their education and obtain a baccalaureate degree. The A.A. is the appropriate choice for students, who will take upper division coursework in the arts, humanities, or social and behavioral sciences. The degree program includes the Colorado Statewide General Education Core and meets the lower division general education requirements at most public institutions in Colorado.

The Early Childhood Education Program provides students with a foundation for working with children from birth to age eight in a variety of settings. Our faculty offer one-on-one guidance for course selection, field placements, student teaching and employment.

With an increasing focus on quality early education, many organizations are requiring their employees to demonstrate a level of expertise provided by this AA degree. Our students complete their degree with a culminating student teaching experience giving them an opportunity to teach in a working classroom in the community for a semester.

Graduates of the early childhood program go on to be employed in large and small child care centers, open up their own home care centers, work in public school settings, or use coursework as a foundation to continue into Early Childhood or elementary teacher license education. In addition, our program aligns with state requirements for early childhood teacher certification and large center director qualification.

For more information on what you can do with this major, go to <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/wccc/programs.html>.

All CMU associate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning. In addition to these campus-wide student learning outcomes, graduates of this major will be able to:

1. Apply the National Association for the Education of Young Children principles and practices in interactions with young children, families and other professionals. (Applied Learning)
2. Utilize mathematical skills required to instruct young children. (Quantitative Fluency)
3. Demonstrate effective written communication skills. (Communication Fluency)
4. Demonstrate effective verbal communication skills. (Communication Fluency)
5. Analyze interactions and teaching experiences from personal journals/administrative evaluations to improve teaching practices. (Critical Thinking/ Specialized Knowledge)

**Advising Process and DegreeWorks**

This document is intended for informational purposes to help determine what courses and associated requirements are needed to earn a degree. The suggested course sequencing outlines how students could finish degree requirements. Some courses are critical to complete in specific semesters, while others may be moved around. Meeting with an academic advisor is essential in planning courses and altering the suggested course sequencing. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and fulfill the requirements for her/his intended degree(s).

DegreeWorks is an online degree audit tool available in MAVzone. It is the official record used by the Registrar's Office to evaluate progress towards a degree and determine eligibility for graduation. Students are responsible for reviewing their DegreeWorks audit on a regular basis and should discuss questions or concerns with their advisor or academic department head. Discrepancies in requirements should be reported to the Registrar's Office.

## **Graduation Process**

Students must complete the following in the first two months of the semester prior to completing their degree requirements:

- Review their DegreeWorks audit and create a plan that outlines how unmet requirements will be met in the final semester.
- Meet with their advisor and modify their plan as needed. The advisor must approve the final plan.
- Submit the "Intent to Graduate" form to the Registrar's Office to officially declare the intended graduation date and commencement ceremony plans.
- Register for all needed courses and complete all requirements for each degree sought.

Submission deadlines and commencement details can be found at <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/registrar/graduation.html>.

If a student's petition for graduation is denied, it will be her/his responsibility to consult the Registrar's Office regarding next steps

## **INSTITUTIONAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The following institutional degree requirements apply to all CMU/WCCC Associate of Arts (AA) degrees. Specific programs may have different requirements that must be met in addition to institutional requirements.

- 60 semester hours total.
- Students must complete a minimum of 15 of the final 30 semester hours of credit at CMU/WCCC.
- 2.00 cumulative GPA or higher in all CMU coursework.
- A grade of "C" or higher must be earned in all Essential Learning courses in order to be accepted for transfer under the Colorado Core Transfer Consortium General Education curriculum or gtPathways, Colorado's guaranteed transfer program.
- A course may only be used to fulfill one requirement for each degree/certificate.
- No more than six semester hours of independent study courses can be used toward the degree.
- Non-traditional credit, such as advanced placement, credit by examination, credit for prior learning, cooperative education and internships, cannot exceed 15 semester credit hours for an AA degree; A maximum of 6 of the 15 credits may be for cooperative education, internships, and practica.
- Pre-collegiate courses (usually numbered below 100) cannot be used for graduation.
- Capstone exit assessment/projects (e.g., Major Field Achievement Test) requirements are identified under Program-Specific Degree Requirements.
- The Catalog Year determines which program sheet and degree requirements a student must fulfill in order to graduate. Visit with your advisor or academic department to determine which catalog year and program requirements you should follow.
- See "Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees and Certificates" in the catalog for a complete list of graduation requirements.

## **PROGRAM-SPECIFIC DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

- A grade of "C" or higher must be earned in all Essential Learning courses in order to be accepted for the transfer under the Core Transfer Agreements.
- Students must have current First Aid/CPR cards
- Students must create a portfolio following department requirements

**ESSENTIAL LEARNING REQUIREMENTS** (31 semester hours)

See the current catalog for a list of courses that fulfill the requirements below. If a course is an Essential Learning option and a requirement for your major, you must use it to fulfill the major requirement and make a different selection for the Essential Learning requirement.

**English** (6 semester hours, must receive a grade of "C" or better and must be completed by the time the student has 60 semester hours.)

- ENGL 111 - English Composition (3)
- ENGL 112 - English Composition (3)

**Mathematics** (3 semester hours, must receive a grade of "C" or better, must be completed by the time the student has 60 semester hours.)

- MATH 110 – College Mathematics (3) or higher

**Humanities** (3 semester hours)

- Select one Humanities course (3)

**Social and Behavioral Sciences** (6 semester hours)

- Select one Social and Behavioral Sciences course (3)
- Select one Social and Behavioral Sciences course (3)

**Natural Sciences** (7 semester hours, one course must include a lab)

- Select one Natural Sciences course (3)
- Select one Natural Sciences course with a lab (4)

**History** (3 semester hours)

- Select one History course (3)

**Fine Arts** (3 semester hours)

- Select one Fine Arts course (3)

**OTHER LOWER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS**

**Wellness Requirement** (2 semester hours)

- KINE 100 - Health and Wellness (1)
- Select one Activity course (1)

**AA: LIBERAL ARTS, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS** (19 semester hours)

- One of the following courses:
  - EDEC 238 - Early Childhood Development (3)
  - PSYC 233 - Human Growth & Development (3)
- EDEC 101 - Introduction to Early Childhood (3)
- EDEC 113 - Infant/Toddler Theory/Practice (3)
- EDEC 122 - Ethics in Early Childhood Education (1)
- EDEC 240 - Curriculum & Development: Early Childhood (3)
- EDEC 250 - Exceptionalities in Early Education (3)
- EDEC 299 - Student Teaching in Early Education (3)

**ELECTIVES** (8 semester hours)

Select eight semester hours from the following list:

- EDEC 102 - Introduction to Early Childhood Professions Lab Experiences (3)
- EDEC 103 - Guidance Strategies for Children (3)
- EDEC 114 - Infant/Toddler Lab Techniques (3)
- EDEC 196 - Topics (1-3)
- EDEC 205 - Health, Nutrition, and Safety (3)
- EDEC 230 - Curriculum and Development: Infant /Toddler (3)
- EDEC 237 - Social and Emotional Growth (3)
- EDEC 241 - Early Childhood Administration: Human Relations (3)
- EDEC 264 - Administration in Early Education (3)
- EDEC 290 - Early Literacy for the Young Child (2)
- EDEC 297 - Practicum (1-2)
- ENGL 240 - Children's Literature (3)

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## SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCING

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### **Freshman Year, Fall Semester: 16 credits**

- ENGL 111 - English Composition (3)
- Essential Learning - Social and Behavioral Sciences (3)
- Essential Learning - Fine Arts (3)
- KINA Activity (1)
- Essential Learning - History (3)
- EDEC 101 - Introduction to Early Childhood (3)

### **Freshman Year, Spring Semester: 14 credits**

- ENGL 112 - English Composition (3)
  - EDEC 122 - Ethics in Early Childhood Education (1)
  - EDEC 240 - Curriculum & Development: Early Childhood (3)
  - KINE 100 - Health and Wellness (1)
  - Early Childhood Education Elective (3)
  - EDEC 238 - Early Childhood Development (3) or PSYC 233 - Human Growth & Development (3)
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### **Sophomore Year, Fall Semester: 16 credits**

- Essential Learning - Natural Science with Lab (4)
- EDEC 113 - Infant/Toddler Theory and Practice (3)
- Essential Learning - Social and Behavioral Sciences (3)
- MATH 110 - College Mathematics (3)
- Early Childhood Education Elective (3)

### **Sophomore Year, Spring Semester: 16 credits**

- EDEC 299 - Student Teaching in Early Education (3)
  - EDEC 250 - Exceptionalities in Early Education (3)
  - Essential Learning - Natural Science (3)
  - Essential Learning - Humanities (3)
  - Early Childhood Education Elective (2)
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Students that intend to continue with Colorado Mesa University should take ESSL 290 Maverick Milestone and ESSL 200 Essential Speech during the final semester of their Associate of Arts work.