

Degree Program

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Options: **Associate of Applied Science Degree / Technical Certificate / Certificate of Proficiency**

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) program combines classroom study and field experience with children from birth to eight years of age. Students gain an understanding of the social, emotional, intellectual, and physical growth and development of all children within an inclusive environment.

Completion of the A.A.S. program includes 330 hours of field experience, all of which is gained through UACCM's Earle Love Child Study Center — a fully-licensed child care center — and other quality sites.

UACCM is one of only three community colleges in Arkansas whose ECD program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The Early Childhood Development program at UACCM is accredited by the Commission on Early Childhood Higher Education Programs of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1313L Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005, (800) 424-2460, ext. 8007. The current accreditation term at time of press runs from July 2018 to July 2020, with an accreditation renewal decision being made by the Commission in Fall 2020.

COURSES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Child Guidance
- Curriculum and Assessment for Infants and Toddlers
- Curriculum and Assessment for Young Children
- Educational Technology
- Future Perspectives in Early Childhood
- Health, Safety, and Facilities for Young Children
- Language and Literacy for Young Children
- Math and Science for Young Children

REQUIREMENTS:

Passing a criminal background check and Arkansas child maltreatment check is required for some classes. Some classes require documentation of a clear TB test and an influenza vaccine. Students must be able to lift up to 50 pounds and stand for prolonged periods of time.

After UACCM

GRADUATES ARE EMPLOYED AS:

- Child care facility owners and directors
- Child care center directors
- Head Start teachers
- Infant/toddler teachers
- Preschool teachers
- Assistant teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- Arkansas Better Chance Preschool paraprofessionals

ARKANSAS WAGES:

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS:

Average Annual Wage: \$32,290

CHILDCARE WORKERS:

Average Annual Wage: \$20,630

EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS:

Earle Love Child Study Center; Beginnings Preschool; Kids First; Community Action Program of Central Arkansas; Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Preschool programs; Save the Children (Early Head Start and Head Start); private day cares; and family day care homes

