

## **ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

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When students complete an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree at MACC they will be able to:

➤ **Build a Foundation of Knowledge in Child Development and Learning**

Our graduates will have a working knowledge of child development, its theories and principles and developmentally appropriate practice. They will use this understanding of the multiple influences on child learning and development to build positive relationships, engage in supportive interactions and implement intentional teaching practices within a safe and healthy learning environment. These will be demonstrated in knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

- Health and Safety Standards and Regulations in the Early Childhood setting
- Theories of Early Childhood Learning and Development
- Developmentally Appropriate Practice
- Principles of Child Development and children's characteristics
  - Birth to toddler
  - Preschool
  - Pre-K to 8 years old
- Positive relationships and supportive teacher-child interactions
- Intentional teaching practices as fundamental to their practice as teachers

➤ **Work and Form Partnerships with Families**

Our graduates will be able to support and empower families through respectful, reciprocal partnerships. By understanding the development and diversity of families in a systems context, our graduates will demonstrate a commitment to utilizing community resources and other professional partnerships that support children as learners and their families. This will be demonstrated by understanding:

- Diversity of families and family structures in a developmental and systems context
- The importance of community resources and identifying those that support families
- The role of professional partnerships in assessing, monitoring and reporting on children's development

➤ **Know, Understand, and Apply Intentional Teaching**

The graduate will be able to integrate foundational knowledge, appropriate early learning standards and other sources to design, implement and evaluate a meaningful and challenging curriculum to promote positive outcomes for children using the following:

- Principles of developmentally appropriate practice, developmental theory, inquiry tools and incorporating knowledge of content areas and academic disciplines
- Knowledge of assessment and its objectives, the responsible use of assessment tools, approaches and interpretation of data for developmentally appropriate classroom planning and instruction
- Research and evidence –based teaching approaches, strategies and tools
- Principles of effective classroom environments: the physical set-up and layout, social and emotional climate and engaging teacher-student interactions
- Appropriate classroom management skills with emphasis on:
  - building strong, positive relationships
  - applying principles of positive behavior support in an inclusive environment
  - developing social-emotional competence

➤ **Become an ECE Professional**

The graduate of the program will have a deeper understanding and commitment to his/her role as a professional in the field of Early Childhood Education in the following areas:

- Effective written and oral communication in Standard English
- Knowledge and application of basic workplace ethics, practices and procedures
- Engagement in ongoing professional development, self-reflection and collaboration with other individuals and organizations in ECE for the latest trends and insights into the profession that lead to informed and improved practice/teaching
- Promotion of positive outcomes for children using available data and resources through community relationships and partnerships with families
- Commitment to ethical standards critical to the care and development of children and support of families
- Advocacy for children, their families and the ECE profession
- Management and allocation of resources for ECE programs for young children and their families

**This is our program promise.**

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