

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

Faculty of Health and Community Studies
Department of Human Services and Early Learning
MacEwan.ca/EarlyLearning (<http://%E2%80%8BMacEwan.ca/EarlyLearning>)

The Early Learning and Child Care Program prepares you to be an early childhood educator and care for the youngest citizens in our community. In this program, you learn how to foster children's growing sense of identity and belonging, as active, contributing members of the community. The foundation of professional practice is facilitating early learning through play.

The Early Learning and Child Care diploma prepares you to become knowledgeable, skilled, responsive educators and advocates for young children and their families. Courses focus on child development, curriculum planning, positive child guidance, professional team communications and working with families. Classes are a unique blend of experiential learning and theoretical knowledge. Course content focuses on children from birth to eight years.

Graduates of the program are confident in their ability to:

- respond to each child as a unique individual
- build strong and supportive relationships with families
- offer early learning curriculum experiences based on current theoretical perspectives.

The program works with community-based early childhood programs in the Edmonton region to provide opportunities to explore approaches to early learning and care in practice as well as to experience the realities of work in the field. Combined with classroom learning, these field experiences prepare graduates to be leaders in the early childhood profession.

A unique feature of the program is our on-campus lab school. All students are actively involved with the early learning educators and the children in the centre. Students have regular opportunities to reflect on the integration of theory and practice using real life examples from the child care centre.

Career Potential

This rewarding profession has a high demand for graduates and an increasing variety of career options. Graduates are employed in child care centres, family day homes, and early intervention programs, family support programs, kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classrooms, playschools, preschools, out-of-school care centres, and parent relief child care centres. Graduates are prepared to work with infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children.

Transferability

Internal Opportunities

MacEwan University is committed to providing bridging and laddering opportunities to its certificate and diploma graduates. Graduates of this diploma program may be granted up to 60 credits to MacEwan University's Bachelor of Child and Youth Care degree and up to 39 credits to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Graduates may also use this diploma to meet admission requirements to the Bachelor of Applied Human Service

Administration degree. Students are advised to consult an advisor for these programs for specific admission requirements and required bridging course information.

External Opportunities

All courses completed for the Early Learning and Child Care diploma are credit courses and may be transferable individually toward further study at other Alberta institutions. Students presenting a completed diploma in this program may be eligible for a block transfer to other Alberta institutions. For current, detailed information on individual course and diploma transferability, refer to the Learner Pathways System at www.transferalberta.ca (<http://www.transferalberta.ca>) or contact the receiving institution directly.

Contact Information

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PROGRAM OFFICE

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Categories of Admission

Applicants may be admitted to one of the following:

Regular Admission

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicants must have a minimum overall average of 65 percent, with no course grade lower than 50 percent, in the following high school courses:

1. ELA 30-1 or ELA 30-2
2. Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2
3. Three subjects from Group A, B, C or D

Notes:

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to present a broad range of subjects in order to benefit from the breadth of learning and to increase flexibility of future program and course choices.
- A maximum of two Group B subjects may be presented; they must be from different disciplines.
- A maximum of one Group D subject may be presented. Group D subjects used for admission must be 5-credit or any credit combination of at least 5 credits (e.g., two 3-credit subjects).

Applicants with nine or more post-secondary level credits must also present a minimum Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Mature Admission

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicants must be 20 years of age or older and have been out of full-time high school at least one year by the beginning of the intake term. Applicants must have a minimum overall average of 65 percent, with no course grade lower than 50 percent, in the following high school courses:

1. ELA 30-1 or ELA 30-2
2. Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2

Applicants with nine or more post-secondary level credits must also present a minimum Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Previous Post-Secondary Admission

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Admission in this category does not imply or guarantee the transfer of any coursework and/or credential unless a block transfer agreement (internal or external) is in effect and published in the calendar by the Office of the University Registrar. In addition, transfer of coursework does not imply or guarantee that an applicant will be admitted.

Applicants must have successfully completed the following from a recognized institution:

- A minimum of 24 post-secondary level credits with a minimum Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Additional Admission Criteria

All applicants must meet the following:

1. English Language Proficiency

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicable to All Admission Categories

All applicants must meet an acceptable level of English language proficiency. We will require official documents such as high school or post-secondary transcripts or proof of successful completion of standardized language evaluation. Full details are available in MacEwan University's full-time calendar or online at MacEwan.ca/ELP (<http://MacEwan.ca/ELP>).

2. Other Admission Criteria

To be evaluated through the Program

Applicable to All Admission Categories

Applicants offered admission are required to submit the following:

- A clear Police Information Check (or equivalent from another policing agency) that includes a Vulnerable Sector Search. The Police Information Check must be submitted by the published document deadline and have been issued within three months of the start of the program intake term.
- A valid child care first aid (standard level) certificate issued by the Canadian Red Cross or St. John Ambulance by the published document deadline.

Program of Study

Course	Title	Credits
Year I		
Term I		
ECDV 101	Healthy Environments for Early Learning and Care	3
ECDV 102	Curriculum I: Creative Expression in Early Learning and Care	3
ECDV 110	Child Development I ¹	3
ECDV 115	Communications I: Interpersonal Competencies	2
ECDV 120	Field Placement I ¹	3
ECDV 125	Integration Seminar I ¹	1

ENGL 102	Analysis and Argument	3
Credits		18
Term II		
ECDV 155	Curriculum II: Learning Through Play	3
ECDV 160	Child Development II	3
ECDV 165	Communications II: A Constructivist Approach to Child Guidance ¹	3
ECDV 170	Field Placement II ¹	3
ECDV 175	Integration Seminar II ¹	1
ECDV 210	Family-Centered Practice	2
Credits		15
Year II		
Term III		
ECDV 201	Curriculum III: Planning for Early Learning and Care	3
ECDV 220	Field Placement III ¹	3
ECDV 225	Integration Seminar III ¹	1
ECDV 230	Communications III: Working in Professional Teams	2
ECDV 260	Family and Community Issues	3
ECDV 280	Infant and Toddler Care and Development	3
Credits		15
Term IV		
ECDV 250	Foundations of Early Childhood	2
ECDV 255	Child Development III	3
ECDV 285	Curriculum IV: Theories of Early Learning	3
ECDV 270	Field Placement IV	3
ECDV 275	Integration Seminar IV	1
OOSC 200	School Age Care and Development	3
Credits		15
Total Credits		63

¹ The minimum passing grade for this course is a C.

The minimum passing grade for a course at MacEwan University is a D unless otherwise noted next to the appropriate course in the program of study.

Course Substitutions

Credit Earned in:	May Be Substituted for Credit in Program Course:
CYCW 101	ECDV 115
CYCW 112	ECDV 210
INTD 105	ECDV 115
PSYC 223	ECDV 160
SOCI 271	ECDV 260
SOWK 111	ECDV 210
SOWK 112	ECDV 160
TAST 107 & TAST 117	ECDV 255

Program Standards

Learners admitted to this program are presumed to be capable of fulfilling the academic requirements of the program with, if applicable, provision of reasonable accommodation. The reasonable accommodation of learners with disabilities shall not require the university to lower its standards, academic or otherwise, nor shall it relieve a learner of the responsibility to develop and demonstrate the essential skills and competencies expected of all learners pursuing this program (policy E3400, Students with Disabilities).

Regulations Governing Work Integrated Learning Activities

Completion of four Field Placement courses is required. Learners must comply with the Work Integrated Learning policy and other applicable policies and regulations of the university and host organization. In accordance with the policy, the university reserves the right to remove a learner from the work integrated learning experience at any point in the experience for serious performance issues (i.e., engaging in behavior that places the client and/or others at risk or that is contrary to the professional or safety requirements of the placement). In such cases and with concurrence of the Dean, the learner will be assigned a grade of F in the course. Although the decision may be appealed according to policy E3103 Student Appeals, the learner will not be permitted to remain in the work integrated learning experience during the appeal.

Host organizations may specify additional prerequisite requirements for work integrated learning experiential activities, for example, a current, clear Police Information Check (PIC), current Child Welfare Check or currency of immunization.

Learners whose PIC status changes or who lack other specified additional requirements compromise their ability to complete the program requirements as they may be denied work integrated learning experiences and, therefore, be unable to meet graduation requirements.

Learners are responsible for any costs they incur related to travel to and from and parking at the host site.

Learners acknowledge that, during scheduled course periods, they are expected to attend field placement eight hours per day with appropriate breaks. Shifts will be scheduled between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Learners will be notified of their particular hours prior to the start of the placement. Hours of attendance will vary between host organizations.

Police Information Check

Students must meet the specific police information check requirements as set out in the admission criteria for the duration of the program or they may be required to withdraw from the program.

Students are responsible for obtaining police information checks annually or at intervals specific to their field placement agency and for making these available upon request. Students may also be required to obtain an Intervention Record Check for some field placements. Students must be able to satisfy agency requirements prior to the start of each field placement.

First Aid in Child Care

A student must meet the specific First Aid in Child Care requirements as set out in the admission criteria for the duration of the program or they may be required to withdraw from the program.