



Virginia Early Childhood Coursework, Certificate, and Degree Navigation Guide

About this guide:	Virginia has many options for early childhood educators interested in furthering their education through competency-building coursework in Virginia’s colleges and universities. While the multitude of options is a benefit for students with varying career development needs, navigating the pathway through the higher education system can be overwhelming. We hope this navigation guide will be useful to both students and faculty advisors interested in helping students complete their educational goals in the field of early childhood education/development focused on supporting children from birth to age 8.
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Certificate or Degree	Dual Enrollment for High School + Career Studies Certificate (CSC) in ECE	Career Studies Certificate (CSC) <i>12-18 credits</i>	Early Childhood Certificate <i>About 30 credits</i>	Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Early Childhood Development <i>About 60 credits</i>	Baccalaureate Degree Programs with concentration in ECE <i>About 120 credits</i>
Program Overview	Dual enrollment is a strategy to help high school students (typically juniors and seniors) get a head start on their career goals. Earning college credits prior to high school graduation can reduce the time and expenses of college and provide students with a solid start to a career right out of school. Dual enrollment opportunities vary by	The CSC consists of core competency-building early childhood courses, focusing on child development, preschool, or infants and toddlers. The program is slightly different at various community colleges. Please explore your chosen college for more information.	The certificate adds coursework (including some general studies) to the competency-building courses of the CSC. The program is slightly different at various community colleges. Please explore your chosen college for more information.	The AAS in ECD adds coursework (including additional general studies) to the competency-building coursework of the CSC and certificate programs. The AAS program is designed to prepare students with skills and theoretical knowledge related to the care, supervision, education, and development of young children. This degree program prepares individuals to work in a variety of	Select programs at Virginia universities will accept students who have completed the AAS in ECD from a Virginia community college. These programs will accept all applicable credits and build on the previous coursework with additional general studies and competency-building courses designed to prepare students to work with young children from birth through age eight. The program is slightly different at various



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	school system and community college, as well as in the outcomes (number of credits earned prior to graduation). Please explore your options with your school's guidance or career counselor.			settings, as well as to transfer into a baccalaureate program. The associate degree is common across colleges and is designed to be fully transferrable to select baccalaureate degree programs in the state.	universities. Programs typically include fieldwork such as student teaching and lead to Virginia teaching licensure in Early / Primary Education PreK-3 and / or Early Childhood Special Education.
Career Pathways 1	Level 3 VDSS Career Pathways	Level 3 VDSS Career Pathways	Level 4 VDSS Career Pathways	Level 6 VDSS Career Pathways	Level 7 VDSS Career Pathways
Career Options	Paraprofessional Instructional Assistant Family Day Home Provider Assistant Teacher / Aide	Paraprofessional Instructional Assistant Family Day Home Provider Assistant or Lead Teacher Assistant Director or Director	Paraprofessional Instructional Assistant Family Day Home Provider Assistant or Lead Teacher Assistant Director or Director	Paraprofessional Instructional Assistant Family Day Home Provider Assistant or Lead Teacher Assistant Director or Director	Lead Teacher PreK-3 rd Grade Teacher Assistant Director or Director Curriculum Specialist Trainer, coach, or mentor
Employer Options	Child care centers, private preschool programs, family day homes	Child care centers, private preschool programs, Head Start programs, public PreK programs, family day homes, camps or recreational programs	Child care centers, private preschool programs, Head Start programs, public PreK programs, family day homes, camps or recreational programs	Child care centers, private preschool programs, Head Start programs, public PreK programs, family day homes, camps or recreational programs	Child care centers, private preschool programs, Head Start programs, public PreK programs, family day homes, training organizations, private or public elementary schools

¹ https://www.dss.virginia.gov/cc/downloads/Career_Pathways_10.2015.pdf



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Typical Salary ²	\$12.88 hourly	\$12.88 hourly	\$14.39 hourly	\$13.15 hourly	\$17.27 - \$36.98 hourly
Colleges & Universities, Program Specifics		Blue Ridge CC Danville CC Eastern Shore CC Germanna CC John Tyler CC JS Reynolds CC Lord Fairfax CC Mountain Empire CC (Preschool) Mountain Empire CC (Infant / Toddler) New River CC NoVA CC Patrick Henry CC Paul D. Camp CC Piedmont VA CC (Preschool) Piedmont VA CC (Infant / Toddler) Southside VA CC Southwest VA CC Thomas Nelson CC Tidewater CC VA Western CC	Germanna CC John Tyler CC JS Reynolds CC New River CC NoVA CC Paul D. Camp CC Patrick Henry CC Tidewater CC Thomas Nelson CC VA Highlands CC	Danville CC Eastern Shore CC Germanna CC JS Reynolds CC John Tyler CC Lord Fairfax CC New River CC NoVA CC Patrick Henry CC Paul D. Camp CC SW VA CC Thomas Nelson CC Tidewater CC VA Western CC	Bluefield College AAS to BS in ECE (Non-Licensure) George Mason University AAS to BSEd in EC James Madison University AAS to BIS in ECE Longwood University AAS to BS in ECE (Martinsville Campus) Old Dominion University AAS to BS in ECE Virginia Commonwealth University AAS to BSEd in ECE and Teaching

² Virginia Early Childhood Foundation Early Childhood Workforce Survey (2017): <https://www.vecf.org/reports-and-tools/>

Center for the Study of Child Care Employment Early Childhood Workforce Index (2018): <http://cscce.berkeley.edu/files/2018/06/2018-Index-Virginia.pdf>