



Child Development/Early Childhood Program Advising Guide

General Program Information

The Child Development/Early Childhood Program is designed to prepare an individual to educate and care for young children from birth through age 8 as an educator or administrator in child care centers, family day homes, Head Start programs, or other early childhood programs.

The CDEC Program offers two different educational pathways: (1) a 15-credit hour Level 1 Early Childhood Teacher Certificate (CDCT.CER1), or (2) a 60-credit hour Associate in Applied Science Degree in Early Childhood (EACH.AAS). Each degree plan provides courses designed around the early childhood educator professional preparation standards as outlined by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). These preparation standards represent a core body of knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions early childhood educators must demonstrate to effectively promote the development, learning, and well-being of all young children. The CDEC Program also utilizes the Center for Early Learning, a NAEYC accredited campus childcare center to demonstrate developmentally appropriate practices as well as allow students to practice within the field.

The Child Development / Early Childhood Associate in Applied Science Degree is accredited by the [Commission on the Accreditation of Early Childhood Higher Education Programs of the NAEYC](http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/higher-ed/accreditation) (www.naeyc.org/accreditation/higher-ed/accreditation).

More information on this program and degree plans, visit the [program's website](https://www.delmar.edu/degrees/child-development-and-early-childhood/index.html) (<https://www.delmar.edu/degrees/child-development-and-early-childhood/index.html>).



How Long Will This Program Take?

The CDEC program is designed to allow flexible entry into the program. Students may begin the program during either Fall or Spring semesters.

The Certificate plan is designed to be completed in 1-2 semesters, while the CDEC Associate Degree is designed to be completed in as early as 2 years. Students may enroll as a full-time student (12 credit hours), or part-time student (6-credit hours or less) which will influence the rate of completion.

Students may start as a Certificate major and upon completion, continue with the Early Childhood AAS degree without loss of credit.

Scholarships

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood© Texas (<https://texasaeyc.org/program-resources/t-e-a-c-h/>) provides scholarships for individuals employed in early education and care centers or homes (30 hours or more) that are working on the associate degree. These scholarships are awarded in renewable, one-year contracts. Contact T.E.A.C.H. at (512) 215-8142 for more information.

Additionally, scholarships or grants are also available through Del Mar College for both full-time and part-time new or continuing students. For more information contact the [DMC Foundation office](#) at (361) 698-1317 or visit <https://www.delmar.edu/foundation/scholarships/index.html>



CDEC Courses

CDEC Program offers diverse early childhood education courses each semester. Each are designed to prepare students to become early childhood professionals who work with young children, families, and professionals in a variety of early childhood settings. Students will have opportunities to learn about children's development, create respectful partnerships with families, participate in observation and assessment of young children, demonstrate authentic and caring relationships with young children, develop meaningful curriculum, and demonstrate professional and sound ethical practices. The CDEC Program also offers courses with paired community service learning opportunities.

Courses are rotated in modality, offering face-to-face, on-line and hybrid courses. Given the diversity in how courses are offered, students may choose to complete their degree plan 100% online, though this may affect speed upon completion. Regardless of the course modality, students will be expected to complete out-of-class course assignments which may include live observations of children and/or implementing activities with children. Within each course, instructional methods include lecture/discussion, videos, course readings, and hands-on field experiences.

CDEC courses utilize many free Open Educational Resources (OER) textbooks or utilize the same textbook in multiple courses in efforts to keep costs down for students. The cost of all textbooks is as little as \$275.00

Field Experiences

Students enrolled in the CDEC Program are required to complete field experiences as part of their coursework which allows students real-world experiences to practice and apply what they are learning. Upon completion of the CDEC AAS degree, students will have completed field experiences in at least 2 different educational settings and with 2 different age groups.

Prior to field site placement, students are required to have a criminal history check, record of a negative TB test, and a food handler's card. For more information about required background checks for this field, please speak to a faculty member in this program.

To complete their field experience, students will be placed at an early childhood program designated by the CDEC Faculty.

Employed Students

Students who are employed may utilize the many online and hybrid courses offered in the CDEC program. Additionally, students who are employed in licensed child care centers or family child care homes may be approved by the CDEC program to use their worksite to complete some required field experiences.

Prior Credentials for College Credit

Students enrolled in the CDEC Program may use their earned Child Development Associate (CDA) credential towards their approved elective requirement on the CDEC AAS degree (3-credit hours). To do so, students must fill out the "Petition for Credit" form from the Registrar's office (<https://delmar.edu/offices/registrar/forms.html>) and submit a \$50.00 processing fee.



Contact Information

Dr. Amy Mintz, Program Director
amintz@delmar.edu
361-698-1962

Mrs. Kellie Sullivan, M.Ed.
ksullivan9@delmar.edu
361-698-2385