

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

## Associate in Applied Science (AAS)

**Program Code: 10-307-1**

**Total Credits: 61-62**

Graduates of the Early Childhood Education program have the hands-on knowledge and skills to work confidently with young children in a variety of settings. Mid-State's program lets you work directly with teachers in early childhood educational settings and develop creative and educational activities within the teaching cycle. You'll also learn the physical, emotional, intellectual, and social development of children spanning infancy through school age as well as how to recognize typical and exceptional patterns of growth.

To learn more about this program, visit [mstc.edu/programs](https://mstc.edu/programs).

### ACADEMIC ADVISOR

To schedule an appointment with an academic advisor, call 715-422-5300. Academic advisors will travel to other campuses as necessary to accommodate student needs. For more information about advising, visit [mstc.edu/advising](https://mstc.edu/advising).

### NEW STUDENT CHECKLIST

Complete the following steps to prepare for your New Student Advising appointment with your academic advisor:

- Submit a Mid-State application at [mstc.edu/apply](https://mstc.edu/apply).
- Send official transcripts to:  
Mid-State Technical College  
Student Services  
500 32nd Street North  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). Mid-State's Financial Aid team is available to assist with your FAFSA application and to answer your financial aid questions. Contact Financial Aid or schedule an appointment at [mstc.edu/financial-aid](https://mstc.edu/financial-aid).
- Set up student MyCampus account at [mstc.edu/mycampus-assistance](https://mstc.edu/mycampus-assistance).
- Schedule a New Student Advising appointment at [mstc.edu/advising](https://mstc.edu/advising).

[mstc.edu](https://mstc.edu) • 888-575-6782 • TTY: 711



Adams Campus • Marshfield Campus • Stevens Point Downtown Campus • Wisconsin Rapids Campus • Virtual Campus • AMETA® Center

Mid-State does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its program, activity, or employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Vice President – Human Resources; 500 32nd Street North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494; 715-422-5325 • AAEO@mstc.edu. 3/2026-AC

## CAREER PATHWAY



**Career pathways help you build your education step by step. Each stage offers one or more credentials that are recognized by employers and lead to real jobs—and you can keep building toward your career goals as you go.**

**Begin at any point.**

### **Prior Learning**

#### **Credit for Prior Learning**

- Certifications and Licenses
- Military Experience
- National/Standardized Exams
- Transfer Credit
- Work and Life Experience

Learn about Credit for Prior Learning at [mstc.edu/cpl](https://mstc.edu/cpl).

### **High School Credit**

- High School Dual Credit
- Mid-State Fast Track

Learn about High School Credit at [mstc.edu/dc](https://mstc.edu/dc).

### **Certificate**

- Early Childhood-Lead Teacher (9 Credits)
- Foundational Early Childhood Education (4 Credits)
- Infant Toddler Specialist (6 Credits)

### **Technical Diploma**

- Early Childhood Professional (28 Credits)  
Start Your Career: Child Care Center Teacher, Educational Assistant, Head Start Assistant Teacher, Special Education Assistant

### **Associate Degree**

- Early Childhood Education (61-62 Credits)  
Start Your Career: Child Care Center Teacher, Director of a Child Care Center, Early Head Start Teacher, Family Child Care Owner

### **Bachelor's Degree**

For those interested in continuing their education, Mid-State offers transfer guides with various four-year colleges and universities. For more information, visit [mstc.edu/transfer](https://mstc.edu/transfer).

## OUTCOMES

Employers will expect you, as an Early Childhood Education graduate, to be able to:

- Apply child development theory to practice.
- Cultivate relationships with children, families, and the community.
- Assess child growth and development.
- Use effective, research-based best practices in teaching and learning.
- Demonstrate professionalism.
- Integrate health, safety, and nutrition practices.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS ATTAINMENT

The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) has implemented a requirement that all technical colleges measure outcomes attained by students. This requirement is called Technical Skills Attainment (TSA). The main objective of TSA is to ensure graduates have the technical skills needed by employers. Faculty will let students know when and how the TSA is being assessed in the program.

Students enrolled in field experience courses will combine classroom learning experiences with sixteen hours per week of purposeful experience in local early childhood centers working with children from infancy through school age.

## TECHNICAL STANDARDS

A list of specific physical, emotional, and mental tasks needed to function as an early childhood education provider is available at [mstc.edu/programs/early-childhood-education](http://mstc.edu/programs/early-childhood-education). Contact the Accessibility Services Coordinator in the Student Services & Information Center to receive assistance.

## PROGRAM PROGRESSION AND COMPLETION

The following requirement must be met in order to progress in the Early Childhood Education program:

A Criminal Background Check (CBC) through the Wisconsin Department of Justice and Wisconsin Department of Health Services/Department of Children and Families/Bureau of Regulation and Licensing must show no record of crimes that would prevent persons from being employed in an early childhood setting licensed by the Department of Health Services/Department of Children and Families/Bureau of Regulation and Licensing. The background check process will include fingerprinting and will require students to visit a Fieldprint location in order to have their fingerprints scanned. A current list of crimes prohibiting one from being licensed to care for children in Wisconsin can be found at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/publications/pdf/5206.pdf>.

In order to progress in and successfully complete the program, students must:

- Repeat courses not completed with a “C” or better prior to progressing in core courses or other courses with a co-prerequisites.
- Receive a grade of “C” or better in all courses required for graduation.

Please note that the ability to repeat a course is dependent upon availability of all courses. Students may be required to apply for program re-entry in order to repeat a course within the program’s instructional area.

## FIELD EXPERIENCE-RELATED REQUIREMENT

Prior to placement at a field experience site, students need to pay for a five-year criminal background check/fingerprint and provide documentation of required health work to the Mid-State Technical College Early Childhood Program coordinator. A background check will also be required to be completed on a yearly basis while in the program.

Field experience sites have the right to refuse a student’s placement based on inadequate health records, pending charges, or conviction records. Students with a criminal history may not be able to complete field experience courses. Mid-State will make two attempts to place a student in an appropriate field experience. If Mid-State is unable to place the student after two attempts, the student will be withdrawn from the field experience course and will not be able to advance in the program.

Prior to beginning a field experience, students must:

- a. Provide evidence of current completion certificates for Abusive Head Trauma, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Mandated Reporter, and Darkness to Light Trainings.

Note: Throughout each of the four field experience courses, students are required to maintain current completion certificates in each of the above-listed topic areas. In the event that any certificate expires before the student successfully completes each of the four field experience courses, the student will be required to complete the necessary training to obtain a valid completion certificate. Any additional cost incurred to update the certificate(s) is the responsibility of the student.

- b. Complete form DCF/F(CFS/0054) Staff Health Report-Child Care Provider (revision date R02/2009).
- c. Successfully complete Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards training.
- d. Meet the identified Technical Standards necessary to be successful in field experience placement.

## STUDENT HANDBOOK

Visit [mstc.edu/studenthandbook](http://mstc.edu/studenthandbook) to view Mid-State’s student handbook, which contains information about admissions, enrollment, appeals processes, services for people with disabilities, financial aid, graduation, privacy, Mid-State’s Student Code of Conduct, and technology.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

The GPS for Student Success course is required for all Mid-State program students and is recommended to be completed before obtaining 12 credits. Some students are exempt from this requirement. Please see your academic advisor for more information.

## ADDITIONAL COURSES AS NEEDED

The following courses may be recommended or required if the student does not achieve minimum placement scores.

### College Reading and Writing 1

**10831104**

**3 credits**

Provides learners with opportunities to develop and expand reading and writing skills to prepare for college-level academic work. Students will employ critical reading strategies to improve comprehension, analysis, and retention of texts. Students will apply the writing process to produce well-developed, coherent, and unified written work.

### Pre-Algebra

**10834109**

**3 credits**

Provides an introduction to algebra. Includes operations on real numbers, solving linear equations, percent and proportion, and an introduction to polynomials and statistics. Prepares students for elementary algebra and subsequent algebra-related courses.

## MULTIPLE MEASURES

Students can place into courses using high school GPA and completed classes. Placement can be determined in the following ways:

- **Multiple Measures Writing (MMW)**  
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school writing courses with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Reading (MMR)**  
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school literature courses with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Math 1 (MMM\_1)**  
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school math (Algebra 1 or equivalent) with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Math 2 (MMM\_2)**  
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school math including Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Science 1 (MMS\_1)**  
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school lab science course with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Science 2 (MMS\_2)**  
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school chemistry with a “C” or better

*Past high school and college transcripts are used in making course placement decisions.*

## SAMPLE FULL-TIME CURRICULUM OPTION

### Early Childhood Education • 61-62 Total Credits

Term 16 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10801195 or 10801136	Written Communication or English Composition 1	Yes	3
	10307148	ECE: Foundations of ECE	Yes	3
	10307110	ECE: Soc S, Art & Music	No	3
	10307167	ECE: Health, Safety, and Nutrition	Yes	3
	10307160	ECE: Field Experience 1	Yes	3
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1

Term 15 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10801198 or 10801196	Speech or Oral/Interpersonal Communication	Yes	3
	10307108	ECE: Early Language & Literacy	No	3
	10307151	ECE: Infant and Toddler Development	Yes	3
	10307188	ECE: Guiding Child Behavior	Yes	3
	10307170	ECE: Field Experience 2	No	3

Term 15 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10809172 or 10809196	Introduction to Diversity Studies or Introduction to Sociology	Yes	3
	10809198 or 10809188	Introduction to Psychology or Developmental Psychology	Yes	3
	10307179	ECE: Child Development	Yes	3
	10307187	ECE: Children with Differing Abilities	Yes	3
	10307190	ECE: Field Experience 3	No	3

Term 15 or 16 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10809166 or 10809122	Introduction to Ethics: Theory & Application or Introduction to American Government	Yes	3
	10804107 or 10804118	College Mathematics or Intermediate Algebra with Applications	Yes	3 or 4
	10307112	ECE: STEM	No	3
	10307195	ECE: Family and Community Relationships	No	3
	10307210	ECE: Field Experience 4	No	3

#### Please Note

- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) options are available for some courses. You can visit [mstc.edu/cpl](https://mstc.edu/cpl) or contact your academic advisor for details.
- This curriculum sequence is only for student planning. Actual student schedules will vary depending on course availability.
- Program completion time may vary based on student scheduling and course availability. For details, go to [mstc.edu/schedule](https://mstc.edu/schedule).
- Get the latest updates online at [mstc.edu](https://mstc.edu).

## SAMPLE PART-TIME CURRICULUM OPTION

### Early Childhood Education • 61-62 Total Credits

<b>Term</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>CPL</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>7 Credits</b>	10307148	ECE: Foundations of ECE	Yes	3
	10307110	ECE: Soc S, Art & Music	No	3
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1
<b>6 Credits</b>	10307108	ECE: Early Language & Literacy	No	3
	10307188	ECE: Guiding Child Behavior	Yes	3
<b>9 Credits</b>	10801195 or 10801136	Written Communication or English Composition 1	Yes	3
	10307167	ECE: Health, Safety, and Nutrition	Yes	3
	10307160	ECE: Field Experience 1	Yes	3
<b>9 Credits</b>	10801198 or 10801196	Speech or Oral/Interpersonal Communication	Yes	3
	10307151	ECE: Infant and Toddler Development	Yes	3
	10307170	ECE: Field Experience 2	No	3
<b>6 Credits</b>	10307179	ECE: Child Development	Yes	3
	10307187	ECE: Children with Differing Abilities	Yes	3
<b>6 Credits</b>	10307112	ECE: STEM	No	3
	10307195	ECE: Family and Community Relationships	No	3
<b>9 Credits</b>	10809172 or 10809196	Introduction to Diversity Studies or Introduction to Sociology	Yes	3
	10809198 or 10809188	Introduction to Psychology or Developmental Psychology	Yes	3
	10307190	ECE: Field Experience 3	No	3
<b>9 Credits</b>	10809166 or 10809122	Introduction to Ethics: Theory & Application or Introduction to American Government	Yes	3
	10804107 or 10804118	College Mathematics or Intermediate Algebra with Applications	Yes	3 or 4
	10307210	ECE: Field Experience 4	No	3

**College Mathematics**

**10804107**

**3 credits**

This course is designed to review and develop fundamental concepts of mathematics in the areas of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, measurement and data. Algebra topics emphasize simplifying algebraic expressions, solving linear equations and inequalities with one variable, solving proportions and percent applications. Geometry and trigonometry topics include; finding areas and volumes of geometric figures, applying similar and congruent triangles, applying Pythagorean Theorem, and solving right triangles using trigonometric ratios. Measurement topics emphasize the application of measurement concepts and conversion techniques within and between U.S. customary and metric system to solve problems. Data topics emphasize data organization and summarization skills, including: frequency distributions, central tendency, relative position and measures of dispersion. Special emphasis is placed on problem solving, critical thinking and logical reasoning, making connections, and using calculators.

*Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMM\_1 or Accuplacer Arithmetic of 250 and QAS 234 or ACT Math score of 17 or Pre-Algebra 10834109 with a "C" or better*

**Developmental Psychology**

**10809188**

**3 credits**

Studies human development throughout the lifespan and explores developmental theory and research with an emphasis on the interactive nature of the biological, cognitive, and psychosocial changes that affect the individual from conception to death. Application activities and critical thinking skills enable students to gain an increased knowledge and understanding of themselves and others.

*Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English*

**ECE: Child Development**

**10307179**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit course examines child development within the context of the early childhood education setting. This course focuses on children ages 3-8 years of age.

**ECE: Children with Differing Abilities**

**10307187**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit course focuses on the child with differing abilities in an inclusive early childhood education setting while examining strategies for cultivating partnerships with families and community supports for children from birth to 8 years of age.

**ECE: Early Language & Literacy**

**10307108**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit course explores strategies to encourage the development of early language and literacy knowledge and skill building in children birth to 8 years of age.

**ECE: Family and Community Relationships**

**10307195**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit course will examine the role of relationships with family and community in early childhood education for children from birth to 8 years of age. In this course, students will complete the Strengthening Families Training.

**ECE: Field Experience 1**

**10307160**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit introductory field experience course, introduces the foundations of early childhood education under guided supervision of a mentor teacher in an early childhood setting, working with children birth through age 8. This course meets the requirements for the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards 18-hour training.

*Prerequisite: ECE: Admission to ECE 103071, Health, Safety & Nutrition 10307167; Corequisites: Early Language & Literacy 10307108 OR Soc S, Art, & Music 10307110. Must meet state admin code reqs to be in an ECE setting (prior coursework & Caregiver Background Check).*

**ECE: Field Experience 2**

**10307170**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit intermediate field experience course includes assisting the mentor teacher in carrying out classroom routines and implementing developmentally appropriate learning experiences that promote child development and learning through play for children birth to age 8.

*Prerequisite: ECE: Field Experience 1 10307160*

**ECE: Field Experience 3**

**10307190**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit advanced field experience course focuses on supporting young children's development birth to age 8 through observation, assessment, and implementation of developmentally appropriate teaching strategies.

*Prerequisite: ECE: Field Experience 2 10307170*

**ECE: Field Experience 4**

**10307210**

**3 credits**

This final 3-credit, pre-professional field experience course focuses on demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of children birth to age 8 and families. An emphasis is on practicing the lead teacher role to design, implement, and evaluate a connected unit of learning experiences.

*Prerequisite: ECE Field Experience 3 10307190*

**ECE: Foundations of ECE**

**10307148**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit course introduces the early childhood profession through a historical overview of the field. The course will explore program trends, quality indicators, and developmentally appropriate practices for children birth to 8 years of age.

### **ECE: Guiding Child Behavior**

**10307188**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit course examines positive strategies to guide children's behavior in the early childhood education setting for children from birth to 8 years of age. This course meets the requirements of the Wisconsin Pyramid Model training.

### **ECE: Health, Safety, and Nutrition**

**10307167**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit course examines the topics of health, safety, and nutrition within the context of the early childhood educational setting for children from birth through 8 years of age. This course includes training for Abusive Head Trauma, SIDS, and Mandated Reporter certifications.

### **ECE: Infant and Toddler Development**

**10307151**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit course explores infant and toddler development as it applies to an early childhood education setting. This course focuses on children's development from conception through thirty-six months (3 years). This course includes training for Wisconsin Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care certification.

### **ECE: Soc S, Art & Music**

**10307110**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit course will focus on beginning level curriculum development in the specific integrated content areas of social studies, art, music, & movement (SSAMM) for children from birth to 8 years of age.

### **ECE: STEM**

**10307112**

**3 credits**

This 3-credit course will focus on beginning level curriculum development in the specific integrated content areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in children birth to age 8.

### **English Composition 1**

**10801136**

**3 credits**

Learners develop and apply skills in all aspects of the writing process. Through a variety of learning activities and written documents, learners employ rhetorical strategies, plan, organize and revise content, apply critical reading strategies, locate and evaluate information, integrate and document sources, and apply standardized English language conventions.

*Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMW or Accuplacer Writing of 262 or Accuplacer Reading 253 or ACT English score of 20 or ACT Reading 21 or completion of College Reading and Writing 1 10831104 with a "C" or better*

### **GPS for Student Success**

**10890102**

**1 credit**

Integrate necessary skills for student success by developing an academic plan, identifying interpersonal attributes for success, adopting efficient and effective learning strategies, and utilizing Mid-State resources, policies, and processes. This course is recommended to be completed prior to obtaining 12 credits and is a graduation requirement unless you receive an exemption from your program advisor.

### **Intermediate Algebra with Applications**

**10804118**

**4 credits**

This course offers algebra content with applications. Topics include properties of real numbers; order of operations; algebraic solution for linear equations and inequalities; operations with polynomial and rational expressions; operations with rational exponents and radicals; and algebra of inverse, logarithmic, and exponential functions.

*Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMM\_1 or Accuplacer Arithmetic of 263 and QAS 234 or ACT Math score of 19 or QAS of 245 or Pre-Algebra 10834109 with a "C" or better.*

### **Introduction to Ethics: Theory & Application**

**10809166**

**3 credits**

Provides a basic understanding of the theoretical foundations of ethical thought. Diverse ethical perspectives are used to analyze and compare relevant issues. Students critically evaluate individual, social, and/or professional standards of behavior, and apply a systemic decision-making process to these situations.

*Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English*

### **Introduction to Psychology**

**10809198**

**3 credits**

This science of psychology course is a survey of multiple aspects of behavior and mental processes. It provides an overview of topics such as research methods, theoretical perspectives, learning, cognition, memory, motivation, emotions, personality, abnormal psychology, physiological factors, social influences, and development.

*Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English*

### **Introduction to Sociology**

**10809196**

**3 credits**

Introduces students to the basic concepts of sociology: culture, socialization, social stratification, multi-culturalism, and the five institutions of family, politics, economics, religion, and education. Other topics include demography, deviance, technology, environment, social issues, social change, social organization, and workplace issues.

*Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English*

### **Introduction to American Government**

**10809122**

**3 credits**

Introduces American political processes and institutions. Focuses on rights and responsibilities of citizens and the process of participatory democracy. Learners examine the complexity of the separation of powers and checks and balances. Explores the role of the media, interest groups, political parties, and public opinion in the political process. Also explores the role of state and national government in our federal system.

*Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English*

### **Introduction to Diversity Studies**

**10809172**

**3 credits**

This course introduces the study of diversity from a local to a global perspective using a holistic, interdisciplinary approach that encourages exploration and prepares students to work in a diverse environment. The course introduces basic diversity concepts, examines the impact of bias and power differentials among groups, explores the use of culturally responsive communication strategies, and compares forces that shape diversity in an international context.

*Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English*

### **Oral/Interpersonal Communication**

**10801196**

**3 credits**

Focuses on developing effective listening techniques and verbal and nonverbal communication skills through oral presentation, group activity, and other projects. The study of self, conflict, and cultural contexts will be explored, as well as their impact on communication.

*Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English or College Reading and Writing with a C or better*

### **Speech**

**10801198**

**3 credits**

Explores the fundamentals of effective oral presentation to small and large groups. Topic selection, audience analysis, methods of organization, research, structuring evidence and support, delivery techniques, and other essential elements of speaking successfully, including the listening process, form the basis of this course. Includes informative, persuasive, and occasion speech presentations.

*Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 253 and Writing of 262 or ACT of 21 Reading/19 English or completion of College Reading and Writing 1 10831104 with a "C" or better*

### **Written Communication**

**10801195**

**3 credits**

Develops writing skills which include prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. A variety of writing assignments are designed to help the learner analyze audience and purpose, research and organize ideas, and format and design documents based on subject matter and content. Also develops critical reading and thinking skills through the analysis of a variety of written documents.

*Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMW or Accuplacer Writing of 262 or ACT English score of 20 or completion of College Reading and Writing 1 10831104 with a "C" or better*