

# EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL

## Technical Diploma Program Code: 31-307-6 Total Credits: 28

The Early Childhood Professional technical diploma prepares individuals to work in a variety of settings. You'll learn to support children in learning early literacy, math, science, art, and music, guided by the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards. The program's 28 credits seamlessly transfer into Mid-State's Early Childhood Education associate degree. As a student in the program, you'll learn through a combination of hands-on fieldwork in area childcare centers, along with related academic work at the college. The program includes hands-on learning opportunities and practice in an early childhood setting.

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



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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 Professional graduate, to be able to:

- Cultivate relationships with children, families, and the community.
- 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.

During the field experience placement, students will combine classroom learning experiences with a total of 96 hours (sixteen hours per week) of purposeful experience in a preschool classroom 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-professional](http://mstc.edu/programs/early-childhood-professional). 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 Professional 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- or 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, and Mandated Reporter.

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 Professional • 28 Total Credits

Term 16 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10307110	ECE: Soc S, Art & Music	No	3
	10307151	ECE: Infant and Toddler Development	Yes	3
	10307160	ECE: Field Experience 1	Yes	3
	10307167	ECE: Health, Safety, and Nutrition	Yes	3
	10307187	ECE: Children with Differing Abilities	Yes	3
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1

Term 12 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10307179	ECE: Child Development	Yes	3
	10307188	ECE: Guiding Child Behavior	Yes	3
	10307195	ECE: Family and Community Relationships	No	3
	10801136	English Composition 1	Yes	3

### Please Note

- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) options are available for some courses. You can visit [mstc.edu/cpl](http://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](http://mstc.edu/schedule).
- Get the latest updates online at [mstc.edu](http://mstc.edu).

## SAMPLE PART-TIME CURRICULUM OPTION

Early Childhood Professional • 28 Total Credits

Term 10 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10307110	ECE: Soc S, Art & Music	No	3
	10307167	ECE: Health, Safety, and Nutrition	Yes	3
	10307151	ECE: Infant and Toddler Development	Yes	3
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1

Term 6 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10307179	ECE: Child Development	Yes	3
	10801136	English Composition 1	Yes	3

Term 6 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10307187	ECE: Children with Differing Abilities	Yes	3
	10307160	ECE: Field Experience 1	Yes	3

Term 6 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10307188	ECE: Guiding Child Behavior	Yes	3
	10307195	ECE: Family and Community Relationships	No	3

**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: 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: 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.

**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.