

# ***ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION***

## **Program Mission Statement**

*The AAS: Early Childhood Education degree prepares early childhood practitioners to meet the unique needs of children from birth through age eight and their families in a variety of early childhood settings including child care homes and centers, Head Starts, pre-schools, etc. The program features a lab with each early childhood course, allowing ample opportunity to “learn through doing”. Students also have many opportunities to interact with peers and professionals in the field.*

This is an articulated degree through Tech Prep. Courses are offered in Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Dillon, Great Falls, Hamilton, Havre, Helena, and Missoula. See BS: Early Childhood Education for an advanced educational opportunity in early childhood.

## **Graduate Outcomes**

### **Program graduates will:**

- know and understand young children’s characteristics and needs.
- know and understand the multiple influences on development and learning.
- use developmental knowledge to create healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging learning environments.
- know about and understand family and community characteristics.
- support and empower families and communities through respectful, reciprocal relationships.
- involve families and communities in their children’s development and learning.
- understand the goals, benefits, and uses of assessment.
- know about and use observation, documentation, and other appropriate assessment tools and approaches.
- understand and practice responsible assessment.
- know about assessment partnerships with families and other professionals.
- know, understand, and use positive relationships and supportive interactions.
- know and understand the importance, central concepts, inquiry tools, and structures of content areas or academic disciplines.
- use own knowledge and other resources to design, implement, and evaluate meaningful, challenging curriculum to promote positive outcomes.
- identify and involve oneself with the early childhood field.
- know about and uphold ethical standards and other professional guidelines.
- engage in continuous, collaborative, learning to inform practice.
- integrate knowledgeable, reflective, and critical perspectives on early education.

## **Assessment**

The graduate outcomes for the AAS: Early Childhood are assessed through employer surveys, alumni surveys, student exit surveys, review of portfolio artifacts, observations of students in practicum sites, early childhood content structured oral comprehensive interview, program self-study, and reports from external reviews. The assessment plan for the BS: Early Childhood Education program is available on the web at <http://www.umwestern.edu/administration/vcaa/accreditation/accaasece/>.

# AAS: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CREDIT SUMMARY

**Students must maintain a 3.00 GPA in the following Early Childhood Education core courses with no grade lower than a "C-":  
ED 142/143, ED 144/145, ED 240/241, ED 246/247, ED 250/251, ED 320/321, ED 324/325**

**GENERAL EDUCATION** – see page 65

**General Education Credits**                    **13-17**

Behavioral/Social Science	3-4
English	3-4
Math	3-4
Natural Science	3-4
COMS 101 Intro/Computers & Presentations	1

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CORE**

**Core Credits**    **30-32**

ED 142 Intro to Early Childhood	1
ED 143 Intro to Early Childhood Lab	1
ED 144 Creating an Envt for Learning	2
ED 145 Creating an Envt for Learning Lab	1
ED 240 Positive Child Discipline	2
ED 241 Positive Child Discipline Lab	1
ED 242 Meeting the Needs of the Family	2
ED 243 Meeting the Needs of the Family Lab	1
ED 250 Child/Adol Growth & Development	3
ED 251 Child/Adol Growth & Develop Lab	1
ED 320 Early Childhood Curriculum I	2
ED 321 Early Childhood Curriculum I Lab	1
ED 324 Early Childhood Curriculum II	2
ED 325 Early Childhood Curriculum II Lab	1
ED 344 Early Childhood Professional	2
ED 345 Early Childhood Professional Lab	1
Art, Drama, Music Elective	3-4
Health, Safety, Nutrition Elective	3-4

**PROFESSIONAL ELECTIVES**

**Professional Elective Credits**                    **11-17**

Complete 11-17 credits from the following: (other courses may apply--see Advisor)	11-17
ED 200 Early Childhood Internship (6)	
ED 326 Infant/Toddler Dev/Group Care (4)	
ED 341 Exceptional Learner (3)	
ED 421 Creativity/Young Child: Exploring Reggio Emilia & Project Approach (3)	
ED 279 Curric for Diverse Learners (2)	

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED**                    **60**