



AAS in Early Learning and Development

Program Competencies

Academic Plan Code: 3124

CIPS Code: 13.1209

GB Date: 06/24/14

Program Credits: 63-68

Program Description:

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Early Learning and Development program is designed to prepare individuals to enter the workforce as Early Childhood Professionals and to assist individuals employed in the field to upgrade and expand their skills. The program emphasizes the roles of early care and education professionals, families and the wider society as they together meet the contemporary needs of young children. Course work includes the principles of developmental science, professionalism in early childhood work, philosophies and methods of early learning, and the impact of standards on practice. To apply planning, management and evaluation skills, students will observe, participate, and intern in state licensed early childhood programs.

Program Competencies:

1. Explain the importance of play, creativity and the arts in contemporary early childhood programs, and how they support early learning. (ECH128)
2. Demonstrate planning, management and evaluation skills related to developmentally appropriate play, arts, and learning activities. (ECH128, EED261)
3. Review the emerging professionalism of the field of early childhood education, including a code of ethical conduct. (EED200)
4. Identify theories, standards, and public policy within the field and describe how these influence early childhood programs. (EED200)
5. Describe how developmental characteristics, individual needs, adult expectations and cultural contexts influence the behavior of children from birth through age eight. (EED212)
6. Describe policies, practices and regulations which ensure the health and safety of young children in group settings. (EED215)
7. Describe the nutritional needs of young children from birth on and explain how these needs are met with food selection, food preparation, and daily eating/feeding routines. (EED215)
8. Explain how community diversity and demographics influence early childhood programs, professionals, and the young children and families served. (EED220)
9. Identify appropriate professional responses that ensure the social and emotional well-being of young children including identification of child maltreatment. (EED220)
10. Describe the process of identification, referral and assessment of young children whose development differs from the average. (EED222)
11. Identify strategies for inclusion, instruction, and support for the exceptional young child within the contexts of family, community and early childhood programs. (EED222)

Revised: 01/17/19

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Program Competencies (continued):

12. Describe how young children develop language, literacy and writing skills and how adults support literacy development. (EED245)
13. Construct a portfolio which demonstrates professional development over time in a variety of dimensions, including professional writing samples. (EED255)
14. Contrast current approaches to curriculum for young learners and explain how state standards relate to curriculum and instruction. (EED278)
15. Identify multiple assessment procedures, their strengths, weaknesses and relationship to early learning standards. (ECH128, EED278, EED280)
16. Apply professional knowledge, skills and ethics of the early childhood profession to early learning settings in the community. (EED200, EED260, EED261)
17. Explain how Arizona Learning Standards are applied within programs serving children three to five and five to eight years of age. (EED280)

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