

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECEP)

Cultivate curious children with play-based learning

In this innovative program, you will examine how children grow and discover how children learn through play. This play-based learning approach, combined with a culturally-relevant environment, nurtures children who are curious, capable, competent, and rich in potential.

Interactive classroom exercises will train you to design, plan, implement, and evaluate play-based learning for children from birth to 12 years of age. You will gain practical experience in our on-campus mock childcare classroom. You can apply to become a Registered Early Childhood Educator upon graduation and be eligible to work in various childcare settings in the community.

Program highlights

- Recognized by the College of Early Childhood Educators
- Placement in each semester
- Opportunities for international placements
- Community guest speakers and field trips to local agencies
- Opportunities to earn additional certifications are built into the program
- Option to earn a second diploma in another community services program in just one year when you graduate

Program of study for 2026-27 Academic Year

Semester 1		Credits
ECE 1050	Health & Nutrition	3
ECE 1024	Child Growth and Development	3
ECE 1115	Intro Early Childhood Education	3
ECE 1130	Field Seminar I	1
ECE 1140	The Creative Learning Environment	3
ENG 1002	College Communications	3
PSY 1010	Principles of Psychology	3
One General Education course. ¹		3
Credits		22

Semester 2		Credits
ECE 1201	Curriculum Planning I	3
ECE 1205	Observation and Documentation	3
ECE 1230	Field Seminar II	1
ECE 1239	Field Practicum II	6
ECE 1295	Child Guidance	3
ENG 1242	Speaking/Writing Comm. Services I	3
One General Education course. ¹		3
Credits		22

Semester 3		Credits
ECE 2040	Culturally Relevant Practice	3
ECE 2301	Curriculum Planning II	3
ECE 2320	Infant and Toddler Care	3
ECE 2330	Field Seminar III	1
ECE 2339	Field Practicum III	4
ECE 2395	Family Liaison	3

ECE 2450	Inclusive Theory & Practices	3
Credits		20
Semester 4		
ECE 1012	Leadership in ECE	3
ECE 1013	Child Abuse	3
ECE 2315	Curriculum Models In ECE	3
ECE 2430	Field Seminar IV	1
ECE 2439	Field Practicum IV	6
ECE 2460	School Age Program	3
One General Education Course. ¹		3
Credits		22
Total Credits		86

¹ For more information regarding General Education courses, click here (<https://cambriancollege.ca/general-electives/>).

Admission requirements

For graduates of the new curriculum (OSS): Ontario Secondary School Diploma (30 credits) or equivalent or mature student status, including:

- Any grade 12 English (C) or (U)

Additional admission requirements

Before the first field placement, students will consult with Synergy and show proof of the following:

- Two-step TB test
- Standard First Aid Certificate/CPR
- Vulnerable Sector Check
- Record of up-to-date immunizations
- Freedom from communicable diseases and physically fit to work with young children
- Field certifications (Bill 18 requirements)
- Co-op permits for placement in all four semesters for international students registered in a field practicum course

Recommendations

- Any grade 11 or 12 family studies (C), (U), or (M)
- Computer competency in relevant software

Program delivery

2026-2027

Fall term start

SEMESTER 1: Fall 2026
SEMESTER 2: Winter 2027
SEMESTER 3: Fall 2027
SEMESTER 4: Winter 2028

Spring term start

SEMESTER 1: Spring 2027
SEMESTER 2: Fall 2027
SEMESTER 3: Winter 2028
SEMESTER 4: Spring 2028

Registration to practice / additional testing

Persons who wish to work within the Early Childhood Education's scope of practice must apply for registration with the College of Early Childhood

Educators. A requirement to apply for registration is possession of an Early Childhood Education diploma from an Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology. It is the responsibility of the graduate to register with the College of Early Childhood Educators.

Specific program pathways

College or university degree opportunities

If you are a graduate of this program, you may continue your studies at a college or university, and you may receive credit(s) for your prior college education. Refer to Cambrian's college and university agreement (<https://cambriancollege.ca/supports-services/articulation-agreements/universities-in-canada/>) details for further information.

Employment opportunities

Graduates may find career opportunities as early childhood educators working with a variety of age groups, including infants, toddlers, preschool, and school-age children in:

- Early learning and child care centres (centre based and/or home childcare)
- EarlyON Child and Family Centres
- Kindergarten classrooms

Graduates are also prepared for employment opportunities in/as:

- Agencies that provide services to young children and their families
- Licensed home child care visitors
- Agencies that support inclusive practices
- Centres for newcomer children
- Nursery schools/parent co-operative centres

Contacts

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INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS

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