

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Program: Career Studies Certificate (C.S.C.)

Career Pathway: Education and Public Service



The Early Childhood Development Career Studies Certificate offers an introduction to the field, designed to provide entry-level skills identified by Virginia's Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals. These Competencies include health, safety, and nutrition, understanding child growth and development, appropriate child observation and assessment, partnering with families and community, learning environment, effective interactions, program management, teacher qualifications and professional development curriculum.

This program can be completed in a single semester. All required classes are offered in a seven-week format, enabling students to take three classes during the first half of the semester and complete the second three classes, including a practicum, during the second half of the semester. Except for the practicum, all coursework can be completed online. We recommend the following schedule for the most efficient completion:

First Seven Weeks	Credits	Second Seven Weeks	Credits
SDV 101: College Success Skills for Early Education	1	CHD 165: Observation and Participation in Early Childhood/Primary Settings	3
CHD 120: Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3	CHD 205: Guiding the Behavior of Children	3
CHD 145: Teaching Art, Music, and Movement to Children	3	EDU 235: Health, Safety, and Nutrition Education	3



SDV 101: College Success Skills for Early Education

Assists students in transition to college. Provides overviews of college policies, procedures, curricular offerings. Encourages contacts with other students and staff. Assists students toward college success through information regarding effective study habits, career and academic planning, and other college resources available to students.

CHD 120: Introduction to Early Childhood Education

Introduces early childhood development through activities and experiences in early childhood, pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and primary programs. Investigates classroom organization and procedures, and use of classroom time and materials, approaches to education for young children, professionalism, and curricular procedures.

CHD 145: Teaching Art, Music, and Movement to Children

Focuses on children's exploration, play, and creative expression in the areas of art, music, and movement. Emphasis will be on developing strategies for using various open-ended media representing a range of approaches in creative thinking. Addresses strategies for intervention and support of exceptional children and English Language Learners.

CHD 165: Observation and Participation in Early Childhood/Primary Settings

Focuses on observation as the primary method for gathering information about children in early childhood settings. Emphasizes development of skills in the implementation of a range of observation techniques. Includes minimum 30 hours of field placement in early learning setting.

CHD 205: Guiding the Behavior of Children

Explores the role of the early childhood educator in supporting emotional and social development of children, and in fostering a sense of community. Presents practical strategies for encouraging pro-social behavior, conflict resolution and problem solving. Emphasizes basic skills and techniques in child guidance.

EDU 235: Health, Safety, and Nutrition Education

Focuses on the health and developmental needs of children and the methods by which these needs are met. Emphasizes positive health, hygiene, nutrition and feeding routines, childhood diseases, and safety issues. Emphasizes supporting the mental and physical wellbeing of children, as well as procedures for reporting child abuse.

Registration

To enroll in this program, please visit www.pvcc.edu and fill out the application online. Once your application has been processed and you have been assigned a student ID number, reach out to the financial aid office to see if you qualify for PVCC4U100%!

PVCC4U100%! is a tuition assistance initiative that covers the cost of tuition and fees for qualifying students who enroll at PVCC. For more information and qualifying criteria, please visit www.pvcc.edu/pvcc4u100.

Early Childhood Development is a **G3 Initiative** program. Eligible students can pursue jobs in high-demand fields and have tuition, fees and books fully covered. To learn more, visit <https://www.pvcc.edu/financialaid/G3>.

To speak to someone further about these tuition assistance programs or about FAFSA, please contact the Financial Aid Office. They can be reached by phone at 434.961.6545, by email at finaid@pvcc.edu, or in-person in the Bolick building room B230.

PVCC also offers wrap-around services, including through **Network2Work@PVCC**. Network2Work@PVCC directly addresses barriers to employment and intentionally recruits job-seekers who are struggling in our economy, connecting them with employers interested in filling available jobs. For more information, visit www.pvcc.edu/community-business/network2work.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT C.S.C. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)



When do I need to register?

Fall 2026 registration opens on March 30, 2026. The last day to register for classes varies by class session. For first-seven-week (7W1) classes, the last day to register is August 26, 2026. For second-seven-week (7W2) classes, it is October 21, 2026.

When do classes start?

Fall 2026 7W1 classes start on August 21, 2026. 7W2 classes start on October 19, 2026.

What is asynchronous learning and what type of learning formats should I expect in classes?

Asynchronous learning offers the flexibility to learn from anywhere, on a schedule that fits your life — perfect for balancing work, family, or other commitments. You will complete coursework each week and interact with your instructor and classmates through online discussion boards and other activities.

What academic supports will be offered by PVCC when I am enrolled in this program?

PVCC provides a broad range of support services to help students succeed, including academic advising, disability services, career services, and academic support through tutoring centers. For a full list of academic support services, please visit www.pvcc.edu/student-support.

Will any of these credits transfer to other degrees or to programs in other states?

While this program is not a transfer degree, credits taken can apply to certain associate degrees elsewhere within the VCCS.

About how much time will I need to complete coursework each week?



Individual classes will vary, but in an accelerated 7-week course, you should expect to take about 5 to 6 hours per credit hour each week. So, a 3-credit hour class should take you about 15 to 18 hours per week.

What supports do you offer ESL students?

ESL classes are available through TJACE (for more information, please visit www.pvcc.edu/TJACE/ESOL).

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What technology do I need to complete this program?

You will need a laptop or desktop computer with internet access to sign on to the Canvas learning management system and complete course work. Students may borrow a laptop through the Granting Opportunities and Laptops (GOAL) Program at the Betty Sue Jessup library. For more information on the GOAL Program, please visit <https://www.pvcc.edu/student-services/library/goal-program>.

Is there an age minimum to participate in this program?

Students who are under the age of 18 must go through assessment and advising. Virginia state code requires individuals be aged 19 or above to work unsupervised in a childcare setting.

What financial aid is available for this program?

This C.S.C. is a *Get a Skill. Get a Job. Get Ahead* (G3) program. Eligible students can have tuition, fees and books fully covered. For more information on eligibility, please visit www.pvcc.edu/financialaid/G3.

Would I benefit from this program if I already have a CDA or an Associates degree that is not in the education field?

The C.S.C. serves as a permanent qualification that can be useful to have in addition to the CDA, which needs to be renewed every three years. If you hold an Associates degree that is not in the education field, you still need some of the courses included in this program to work in an early childhood education setting.

