



Course Syllabus 2025-2026

Program Title

Early Childhood and Elementary Careers

Instructor

Mary Pierce

763-684-2208

mary.pierce@wrighttech.org

Course Description

Students in the Early Childhood & Elementary Careers course will learn about working with children in a career setting. They will learn about developmental theories, developmental domains, and developmental milestones for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children. Early Childhood & Elementary Careers (ECEC) students will learn about curriculum development and they will plan learning activities for children. They will investigate methods for teaching children with special needs and learn about disability categories. ECEC students will learn about child abuse, trauma informed care, and resiliency. They will work with children in supervised group settings; including the Head Start classrooms and community sites (elementary schools, preschools, child care centers, etc). ECEC students will investigate careers through research and internship.

Textbook & Classroom Resources

Herr, Judy. *Working With Young Children*. Tinley Park, IL: Goodheart-Willcox Company, (2020).
Google Classroom

Council for Professional Recognition. *CDA Essentials for Working With Young Children*. Washington D.C. (2017)

Course Goals

This program will enable the student to:

1. Identify child development theorists and understand theories of development.
2. Describe infant development (physical growth, language development, motor development, social and emotional development, temperament differences, routines, nutritional needs)
3. Describe toddler development (physical growth, language development, motor development, social and emotional development, temper tantrums, toilet training, nutritional needs, needs in child care facilities)
4. Describe preschool development (physical growth, social-emotional development, language development, effects of TV and technology, learning theories, preschool program choices, importance of play)
5. Describe school age development (physical growth, intellectual development, social development, effects of TV and technology, responsibilities, program choices, play)

6. Research disabilities and how to work with children with special needs.
7. Research and investigate career choices.
8. Experience daily activities and routines with preschool children in the onsite Head Start labs.
9. Describe and demonstrate different assessment techniques.
10. Compare types of child care and educational programs through research and observation.
11. Describe job requirements and roles of workers. Describe career opportunities and investigate educational and training requirements.
12. Plan and facilitate developmentally appropriate activities for preschool children.
13. Experience work-based learning through community internships in elementary schools, day care centers, preschools, or special needs classrooms.

Skills Needed

To be successful in this program, you should have the following skills:

- Communication and social skills
- Professional and ethical behavior
- Proficient reading and math skills
- Ability to learn and use mental health skills
- Ability to handle on-the-job experiences in public settings

Classroom Supplies

- Notebook, Pen, Pencil
- 2-3 inch three ring binder
- Folder
- School-issued computer or device

Evaluation of Learning

Student performance will be evaluated using multiple assessments involving assigned program activities. Student's course grades will be based on the following:

Evaluation Criteria	Method of Evaluation	Total Points
Professionalism and Effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attendance ● Class participation ● Dress ● Attitude and Behavior ● Prepared for class and internships ● Internship Evaluations 	Total Points
Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Large Unit Assignments ● Portfolios ● Written and oral presentations ● Project rubrics 	
Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Worksheets ● Discussion ● Chapter activities ● Tests and Quizzes 	

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A+	100% – 98%
A	97% – 92%
A-	91%– 90%
B+	89% – 88%
B	87% – 82%
B-	81% – 80%

Grade	Percentage
C+	79% – 78%
C	77% – 72%
C-	71% – 70%
D+	69% – 68%
D	67% - 62%
D -	61% - 60%
F	59% - Below

Late Assignments

Late assignments turned in within a week of their due date will be eligible for up to 50% of points. Assignments greater than one week late will be zeros. Assignments will be accepted within two days of an **excused** absence.

Extra Credit Opportunities

1. Overnight or weekend experience with Electronic Baby Simulator
2. Current Events (class related)
3. Prep learning materials for Head Start Students
 - a. File Folder Games
 - b. Flannel Stories
 - c. Learning Games
 - d. Activities
4. Planning and facilitating lessons/activities for Head Start students
5. Book report/review of a children's book

Student Organizations

Students in the Early Childhood and Elementary Careers Program have the opportunity to participate in Future Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). FCCLA offers a variety of leadership experiences including community services projects, the opportunity to shadow a Minnesota Government Representative at the capitol building in St. Paul, and the experience of the state leadership conference where students compete against other students from across the state on career-based projects with the opportunity of advancing to the national competition.

Career Information

MN Program of Study	
Career Field	Human Services
Career Cluster	Education & Training
Career Pathway	Teaching & Training
Occupations Requiring Less than Baccalaureate Degree <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Care Provider• Early Childhood Aide or Assistant• Paraprofessional- Educational Support Professional (ESP)• Assistant Coach• Elementary ESP• Nanny• Personal Care Attendant• Physical Therapist Assistant• Occupational Therapist Assistant• Behavioral Assistant• Title One Support Professional• Special Education Support Professional	Occupations Requiring Baccalaureate Degree or more <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Care Director• Child Life Specialist• Early Childhood Teacher• Elementary Teacher• Human Resource Trainer• Middle School Teacher• Physical Trainer• Mental Health Specialist• Pediatric Nurse• Social Worker• School Counselor• Speech and Language Pathologist• High School Teacher
Career Outlook	information available @ careerwise.minnstate.edu

College Credit Opportunities

Early Childhood and Elementary Careers students have the opportunity to earn articulated credit through the following post-secondary schools:

- Hennepin Technical College
- St. Paul College
- Ridgewater College
- Central Lakes College
- St. Cloud Technical Community College

Students must earn an 80% or higher overall grade to receive articulated credit from Ridgewater College and Central Lakes College. Students must earn 88% or higher overall grade to receive articulated credit from Hennepin Technical College, St. Cloud Technical Community College, and St. Paul College.