

Washington State Stackable Certificates

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Statewide Credentials

In Washington, early learning professionals who want to further their education have a clear path to follow: Colleges across the state offer common courses, course titles, course numbers, course descriptions and student outcomes. All courses are aligned with the Washington State Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals. They also allow students to earn “stackable” certificates: The courses that students are required to take will build on one another in a sequential manner and deepen levels of applied learning along the way.

1

The Initial Certificate (12 credits): Students can earn this certificate as the starting point of their careers or to continue their professional development. The certificate focuses on competencies comparable to those of the Child Development Associate (CDA). This provides the foundation for the ECE State Certificate and associate degree. Courses include a 5-credit Introduction to Early Childhood Education; a 5-credit Health, Safety and Nutrition course, and a 2-credit practicum to apply learning.

2

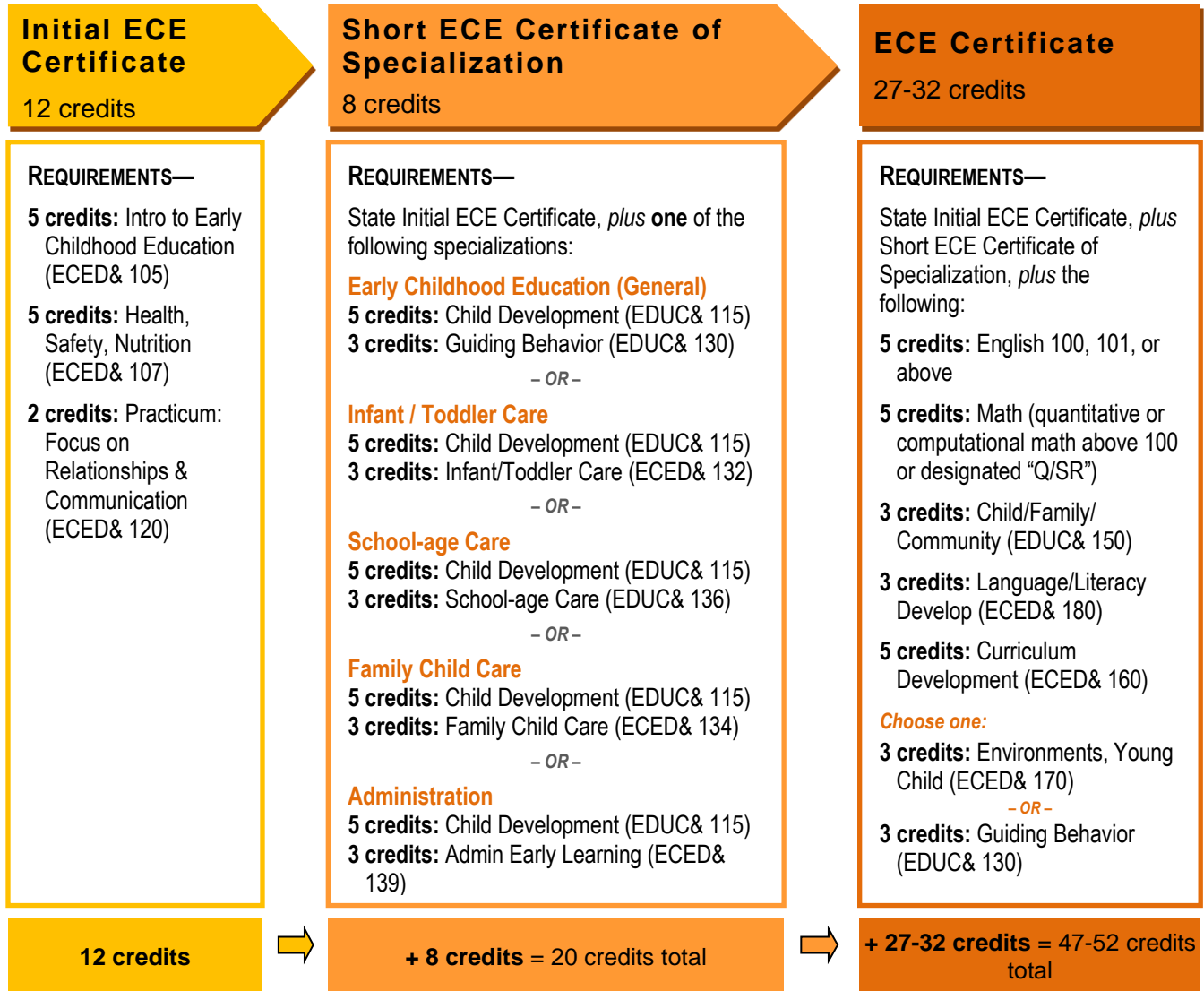
The ECE Short Certificate (8 credits): This certificate builds on the Initial Certificate (for a total of 20 credits). At this point, professionals can choose one of five specializations: ECE general, infant-toddler care, school-age care, family child care, and ECE administration. For each specialization, students must take a 5-credit Child Development course, plus a course aligned with the specific specialization.

3

The ECE State Certificate (27-32 credits): This final “stackable certificate” requires college-level math and English as a foundation for the next step: an associate degree in ECE. In addition to these general education requirements, the courses that students must take include Language and Literacy Development; Observation and Assessment; Child, Family and Community; Guiding Behavior; Environments for Young Children; and Curriculum Development. With all three certificates, the total number of credits earned by the student is 47-52. The colleges vary in the number of required credits for some classes. A class at one college may be 3 credits, while at another the same course is 5 credits.

The diagram (below) summarizes the three certificates and required coursework. Contact your local community or technical college for details about course offerings. **(For a list of colleges, see page 3.)**

WASHINGTON STATE STACKABLE CERTIFICATES



Where can I earn stackable certificates?

The following community and technical colleges offer the courses required for the state initial certificate. For more information, contact the person listed or your local college.

Bates Technical College

Contact: Heather Robison
Parent-Infant and Toddler Faculty, Child Studies Dept.
Bates Technical College
253-680-7511
hrobison@bates.ctc.edu

Bellevue College

Contact: Sharon Rompanen
Early Achievers Grant Point of Contact
Bellevue College
425-564-2098
srompan@bellevuecollege.edu

Big Bend Community College

Contact: Jody Bortz
Early Achievers Point of Contact
Big Bend Community College
(509) 793-2311
jodyb@bigbend.edu

Centralia College

Contact: Megan Eastman-Zigler
Program Coordinator, Child and Family Studies
Centralia College
360-736-9391 Ext. 642
Megan.zigler@centralia.edu

Clark College

Contact: Jessica Woods
Early Achievers Grant Point of Contact
Clark College
360-992-2340
JWoods@clark.edu

Columbia Basin College

Contact: Daphne Larios
Early Achievers Grant Point of Contact
Columbia Basin College
509-542-4562
dlarios@columbiabasin.edu

Edmonds Community College

Contact: Connie Schatz
Early Childhood Education Department Head and Faculty
Edmonds Community College
425-640-1612
cschatz@email.edcc.edu

Everett Community College

Contact: Paula Solis Krock
Faculty, Early Childhood Education
Everett Community College
206-383-7430
pkrock@everettcc.edu

Grays Harbor College

Contact: June McConnell
WorkFirst Support Specialist
Grays Harbor College
360-538-2522
june.mcconnell@ghc.edu

Green River College

Contact: Diana Holz
Early Childhood Education
Green River College
253-833-9111 Ext. 4334
dholz@greenriver.edu

Highline College

Contact: David Makonnen
Early Achievers Grant Point of Contact
Highline College
206-592-4085
dmakonnen@highline.edu

Lake Washington Institute of Technology

Contact: Shanti Connors
Faculty & Advisor, Early Childhood Education
Lake Washington Institute of Technology
425-739-8177
Shanti.Connors@lwtech.edu

Lower Columbia College

Contact: Ann Williamson
Early Childhood Education
Lower Columbia College
360-442-2892
awilliamson@lcc.ctc.edu

North Seattle College

Contact: Darline Guerrero
Early Childhood Education
North Seattle College
206-934-3749
Darline.Guerrero@seattlecolleges.edu

Olympic College

Contact: Holly Lanoue
Early Achievers Grant Point of Contact
Olympic College
360-475-7195
hlanoue@olympic.edu

Peninsula College

Contact: Yvette Cline
Early Childhood Education Coordinator
Peninsula College
360-417-6495
YCline@pencol.edu

Pierce College

Contact: Sharene Leek
Early Achievers Grant Point of Contact
Pierce College
253-964-6774
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Renton Technical College

Contact: Barbara Culler
Early Childhood Education Coordinator
Renton Technical College
425-235-2202
bculler@rtc.edu

Seattle Central College

Contact: Karleen Wolfe
Early Achievers Grant Point of Contact
Seattle Central College
206-934-6901
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Skagit Valley College

Contact: Daisy Padilla
Early Achievers Grant Point of Contact
Skagit Valley College
360-416-540
Daisy.padilla@skagit.edu

South Puget Sound Community College

Contact: Caprice Paduano
Professor, Early Learning & Education Programs

South Puget Sound Community College
360-596-5462
cpaduano@spscc.edu

Spokane Falls Community College

Contact: Tennille O'Blenness
Early Childhood Education
Spokane Falls Community College
509-533-3095
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Tacoma Community College

Contact: Kelli Johnston
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Tacoma Community College
206-566-3978
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Walla Walla Community College

Contact: Samantha Bowen
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Walla Walla Community College
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Samantha.bowen@wwcc.edu

Wenatchee Valley College

Contact: Nancy Spurgeon
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Whatcom Community College

Contact: Kim Doyle
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Yakima Valley College

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