Program Description: The Early Childhood Education program of study prepares students to work with young children in a variety of early care and education settings. Settings include childcare programs for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years, school age programs, nursery schools, Head Start, Montessori schools, faith based preschool programs, public schools, hospitals and early intervention.

Graduates will be able to provide high quality educational environments that are inclusive of all children ages birth to 9. They will gain the necessary knowledge and skills to provide a developmentally appropriate, culturally response and inclusive early learning experience.

This program of study will also prepare the student to transfer to a 4 year institution to earn a Bachelor's degree and teacher certification, Prekindergarten through 4th grade.

Students will be required to have Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance, Pennsylvania Criminal Clearance, FBI clearance and documentation of current immunizations and TB screening.

The Early Childhood Education program at Delaware County Community College is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children as an early childhood professional preparation program.

Graduates will be awarded the Associate in Art in Early Childhood Education.

Program Outcomes:
Upon successfully completing of course requirements, students should be able to:

- Comprehend the practical aspects of education, including governance, politics, funding, law, psychology, and philosophical and social effects.
- Integrate knowledge of child development, families/communities, and assessment to design, implement and evaluate environments that are developmentally appropriate, educationally focused, respectful, supportive and challenging for all children.
- Identify and evaluate the impact of family, community and culture in the development of the young child and use this knowledge to build respectful and reciprocal relationships with families and the community that supports their active participation in children's development and learning.
- Recognize the importance of life-long learning and demonstrate knowledgeable, reflective and critical perspectives on their work.
- Identify and evaluate materials, equipment and activities based on knowledge of early childhood pedagogy that provides an inclusive, responsive, safe and healthy learning environment for all children.
- Employ developmentally appropriate assessment techniques to plan for children's educational needs, curriculum development and program planning and to communicate findings with parents and other professionals.
- Design a meaningful and challenging curriculum that demonstrates an integration of essential concepts, inquiry tools and structure in the curricular areas that promotes children's development and learning.
- Evaluate appropriate resources to plan instruction based on students' needs.
- Demonstrate attitudes implicit in building positive and supportive relationships with children that form the foundation for effective teacher/child interactions.
• Develop the ability to evaluate, analyze, and synthesize ideas from a variety of sources to formulate a preventative model of classroom management.
• Manifest a responsible and professional attitude toward career goals and adhere to the ethical standards of the profession.
• Develop an understanding of teaching as a career choice, including job requirements, responsibilities, advantages, disadvantages and lifelong learning

Semester by Semester Plan:

Semester 1:
ENG 100
ECE 100 or
EDU 110
ECE 130
ECE 112
Humanities Elective
History Elective

Semester 2:
ENG 112
ECE 120 or
EDU 215
ECE 140
Sociology/Psychology Elective
Science Elective (ESS BIO, CHEM, PHY, SCI)

Semester 3:
EDU 220
ECE 110 or
EDU 207
ECE 111
MAT 120 or above
English Literature Elective

Semester 4:
ECE 201
ECE 121
EDU 208
MAT 120 or above
Humanities Elective

Total Credits: 63-64

Notes:
Students wishing to transfer to a 4-year institution to earn PreK-4th grade teacher certification should choose the general education electives based on the requirements of the transfer institution.

Students who plan to work in a birth to 5 years early care and education environment should take ECE 100, 110 and 120. Students who plan to teach in grades K-4 should take EDU 110, EDU 215, and EDU 207. English literature elective includes: ENG 214, 215, 216, 220, 221, 222, 231, 240, 241, 243, 245, 250.
In compliance with Higher Education Act 2008, click here to obtain information about tuition and fees, and other information associated with Delaware County Community College Gainful Employment programs.