



Child Development

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Associate in Applied Science Degree (5 semesters)
Certificate (2 semesters)
Career Cluster: Human Services

At a Glance

Preschool teachers play a vital role in the development of children. What children learn and experience during their early years can shape their views of themselves and the world and can affect their later success or failure in school, work, and their personal lives. Preschool teachers use games, music, artwork, films, books, computers, and other tools to teach basic skills and introduce children to concepts in mathematics, language, science, and social studies. Teacher assistants provide instructional and clerical support for classroom teachers and tutor and assist children in learning class material using the teacher's lesson plans. They record grades, set up equipment, and help prepare materials for instruction. Teacher assistants also are called teacher aides or instructional aides. Some assistants refer to themselves as paraeducators or paraprofessionals.

Program Description

The Child Development **Associate in Applied Science Degree** program is designed to prepare students for employment in preschool programs. Graduates may be employed as teacher assistants in public kindergartens, as teachers or directors in private and preschool programs, and as teacher assistants in Head Start. Classes in this program are designed to meet the Alabama state minimum standard qualifications for a director, program director, and teacher in a licensed child care center.

The **Child Development Certificate** program offers the student background knowledge of all stages of child growth and development; training and practical experience in conducting all types of learning activities with children; knowledge and application of techniques in positive guidance and discipline, health, safety, and first aid practices, and a basic knowledge of the state minimum standards for daycare centers and homes. Any person who has an interest in or a desire to upgrade his or her knowledge in child care work and has a high school diploma or GED will be eligible for this program.

Admission Requirements

Applicants Must:

1. Meet all the general admission requirements of WSCC.
2. Submit a WSCC application to the Admissions Office, declaring Child Development as major.
3. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale on all previous high school and college work attempted.
4. Submit program application *with Official Transcripts*^{8/1/11} to the Child Development Program Director.
5. Arrange for an orientation interview with the Child Development Program Director. This should be done at the time application is made to the College.

Selection and Notification

1. The Child Development Program admits three times per year.
2. Program applications will be reviewed for completion of program admission requirements. Written notification of the outcome of each application will be mailed to the student at the address provided on the application.
3. Students selected must respond, confirming acceptance within ten (10) days of the postmarked date of the acceptance letter. A student who fails to respond may forfeit his/her place in the class. A signed consent to drug testing must accompany the acceptance confirmation.
4. Students selected for acceptance should attend the mandatory orientation session. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of their space in the class.

Program Expectations

Students admitted into the Child Development program are expected to comply with the Health Science Program Regulations and Expectations as published in the Programs of Study section of the Wallace State College Catalog.

Upon Admission: Child Development students are required to undergo Background Screening and Drug Testing according to Health Science Division policy.

Career Path

The **Child Development Associate in Applied Science Degree** program is designed to prepare students for employment in preschool programs. Emphasis is upon developing competency in guiding the experience of preschool children. Graduates may be employed as teacher assistants or aides in public school systems, as teachers or directors in private and preschool programs and as teacher or an assistant in Head Start. Classes in this program are designed to meet the Alabama state minimum standard qualifications for a director, program director, and teacher in a licensed child care center.

The **Child Development Certificate** program offers the student background knowledge of all stages of child growth and development; training and practical experience in conducting all types of learning activities with children; knowledge and application of techniques in positive guidance and discipline, health, safety, and first aid practices, and a basic knowledge of the state minimum standards for daycare centers and homes.

Employment of teacher assistants is expected to grow by 10 percent between 2006 and 2016, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Median annual earnings of teacher assistants in May 2006 were \$20,740. The middle 50 percent earned between \$16,430 and \$26,160 and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$31,610. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) Curriculum

The A.A.S. Curriculum is designed for individuals whose primary goal is to enter the work force upon graduation.

General Required Courses

ORI 101*	Orientation to College	1
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3
SPH 106	Fundamentals of Oral Communication	3
BIO 103	Principles of Biology I	4
BIO 104	Principles of Biology II	4
MTH 116	Mathematical Applications	3
PSY 200	General Psychology	<u>3</u>
		23-24

*See ORI 101 information on p. 20 of WSCC College Catalog.

MAJOR REQUIRED COURSES

CHD 100	Intro. of Early Care & Education of Children	3
CHD 201	Child Growth and Development Principles	3
CHD 202	Children's Creative Experiences	3
CHD 203	Children's Literature and Language Development	3
CHD 204	Methods and Materials for Teaching Children	3
CHD 205	Program Planning for Educating Young Children	3
CHD 206	Children's Health and Safety	3
CHD 208	Administration of Child Development Programs	3
CHD 209	Infant and Toddler Education Programs	3
CHD 210	Educating Exceptional Children	3
CHD 215	Supervised Practical Experience in Child Development	3
EMS 100**	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	1
CIS 146	Microcomputer Applications	3
		<u>37</u>
		TOTAL HOURS 60-61

**Not all CPR courses are acceptable for transfer for EMS 100. Please call Admissions Office for information.

Certificate

ORI 101*	Orientation to College	1
CHD 201	Child Growth and Development Principles	3
CHD 202	Children's Creative Experiences	3
CHD 203	Children's Literature and Language Development	3
CHD 204	Methods and Materials for Teaching Children	3
CHD 206	Children's Health and Safety	3
CHD 205	Program Planning and Educating Young Children	3
CHD 215	Supervised Practical Experience in Child Dev.	3
**CHD Electives		<u>6</u>
		27-28

*Orientation to College is a college requirement, not a requirement of the program. You are exempt from orientation if you are a transfer student with a minimum of 12 semester hours of college work or if you were enrolled at Wallace State Community College before Fall 2004. Orientation 103 is required for any student who places in a remedial level course.

** Child Development Electives

CHD 100	Introduction of Early Care and Education	3
CHD 208	Administration of Child Development Programs	3
CHD 209	Infant and Toddler Education Programs	3
CHD 210	Educating Exceptional Young Children	3