



Child Development (CHD)



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Associate in Applied Science Degree (5 semesters) Certificate (3 semesters) Short Term Certificate (1 semester)

At a Glance

Completion of the Child Development Program provides students with specialized education and the necessary knowledge and skills to become successful caregivers and administrators in early care and education programs such as family day cares, childcare centers, Head Start, Early Head Start or Pre-K.

Teachers of young children play a vital role in their development. Positive experiences during children's early years are critical for brain development and can shape their views of themselves and the world. What children learn and experience in the first five years can affect their later success. Preschool teachers use a variety of teaching strategies and materials to teach basic skills and introduce concepts to children in all areas. Teacher assistants provide instructional support for classroom teachers. They may also tutor and assist children.

There will be an increased demand for preschool programs as the population of children ages 3 to 5 is expected to rise. Because children between these ages are typically enrolled in preschool, the demand for preschool teachers increases when this population increases. (U.S. Department of Labor).

Child Development courses are offered in only an online format. Students may enroll in most of the child development (CHD) courses without being admitted into the program.

Program Description

The Child Development Short-Term Certificate fulfills basic objectives to provide care to children in one of four areas: Infant/Toddler, Preschool/Family Child Care, Child Development, and Early Childhood Education. Courses to earn at least one of the short-term certificates are offered each semester. Students who earn a minimum of nine hours in child development are qualified to obtain teaching positions as assistants in Head Start and First Class Pre-K classrooms or many other early care programs.

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 day care centers and homes.

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. Classes in this program are designed to meet the Alabama state minimum standard qualifications for a director, program director, and teacher in a licensed childcare center.

Students can fulfill the 120 hours of professional early childhood education training for the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) by successfully completing three courses which are CHD 100, CHD 206, and CHD 204 or 209 (infant and toddler only). See below for details.

Admission Requirements

1. Submit a WSCC and meet all the general admission requirements of the college. Student must be in good standing with the college. Students must have completed all placement assessments as required by Admissions.
2. Submit a CHD Program Application. The CHD program online application is located on program's webpage at www.wallacestate.edu. Online application instructions are under the *Application to Program* tab. All applicants are required to upload all necessary documentation for consideration. Applications will be accepted August 1st through November 1st for spring semester admission. Applications received after November 1st will be considered on a space available basis.
3. Possess a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale on all previous high school and college work attempted.
4. Students may apply to the program before completion of the general education courses. It is preferred that students have completed a minimum of three CHD courses with a grade of C or better to apply.
5. Schedule an interview with the Child Development Program Director prior to the semester you wish to enroll.

Selection and Notification

1. The Child Development Program admits annually for the spring semester.
2. Program applications will be reviewed for completion of program admission requirements. Written notification of outcome of each application will be emailed to 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.

Program Expectations

Students enrolled in child development courses are required to participate in observations and field experiences to complete activities and assignments with young children for some coursework. Students are expected to be able to fulfill these assignments at the student's expense and should plan accordingly.

Child Development courses are offered online and utilize Blackboard for communication, information and submission of assignments so students are expected to have access to a computer with a webcam and Internet access and have the necessary skills to complete coursework utilizing word processing and accessing Internet files or websites. CHD 215 requires admission and acceptance into the CHD program. Students may enroll in all other CHD courses without first being admitted into the program.

Child Development program faculty may require all online quizzes or exams to be completed through the use of a webcam and designated browser as described in course syllabi. Any request for transferred credit for CHD courses to the college must be for courses completed within the last five years with a grade of at least a "C" or above.

Upon Admission

Upon acceptance into Child Development, the student must submit a completed background check through the college or provide a copy of a cleared background check from the state of Alabama or Department of Human Resources dated within one year. Students are also required to sign and submit copies of college policies from the Child Development program handbook.

Admission to the Child Development program shall be conditional depending upon the student's ability to submit a cleared background check and signed signature pages from the handbook. Failure to submit all required clinical documentation before the program established deadline will result in program dismissal.

Progression

Systematic progression through the program will ensure timely completion of the program. Prior to taking courses, students are advised to meet with the program director to develop a comprehensive plan for satisfying program requirements in a timely manner. Most courses are only offered once per year so it is recommended that students plan ahead to take the courses that are needed. By following the suggested course schedule students will be able to complete the program within five semesters.

Uninterrupted progression is most desirable. If progression is interrupted for more than one semester (excluding summer),

the student must apply for readmission to the program. Students who are readmitted must follow all program expectations as listed in the catalog and student handbook.

Students are required to achieve a grade of "C" or above in all general and major required courses. Students who fail to earn a "C" or above will be required to repeat the course.

Students are required to maintain a 2.0 GPA while enrolled in the program. If the GPA falls below a 2.0 for more than one semester, the student will be dismissed from the program and must apply for readmission. Students can reapply to the program one time.

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, Head Start or Alabama's First Class Pre-K and as teachers or directors in other private and preschool programs. 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. Some Child Development courses from WSCC will be accepted for transfer to other four year institutions to obtain a B.S. Degree in Early Childhood Education. Please consult the STARS transfer guide for the latest information.

The Child Development Certificate is designed as a step between the short-term certificates and the Associate in Applied Science degree in Child Development. Students who earn a certificate in child development are qualified to work as assistants in many early care and education programs including the First Class Pre-K and Head Start classrooms and in many other early care and education programs.

The Child Development Short-Term 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 day care centers and homes.

Employment of preschool teachers is projected to grow 10 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than average for all occupations. Growth is expected due to a continued focus on the importance of early childhood education. The median annual wage for preschool teachers was \$28,790 in May 2016. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2017-18 Edition, Preschool Teachers.)

NOTE: The Guided Pathways Curricular Maps below contain all the elements required for degree/certificate completion. However, courses may be offered or taken in other semesters so long as prerequisites are met. Additional options for elective courses are available. Please see DegreeWorks for allowable substitutions. Courses may be available days, nights, hybrid, and online. Sample maps for part-time attendance may also be available. Please see an advisor.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE:

AAS CHILD DEVELOPMENT – Guided Pathway/Map

1st Semester

ORI 110*	Freshman Seminar	1
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
CHD 203	Children’s Literature and Language Development	3
CHD 206	Children’s Health and Safety	3
CHD 209	Infant & Toddler Education Programs	3
<u>EMS 100***</u>	<u>Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation</u>	<u>3</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	14

2nd Semester

ENG 102	English Composition II	3
CHD 201	Child Growth & Development Principles	3
CHD 205	Program Planning for Educating Young Children	3
<u>CHD 210</u>	<u>Educating Children with Exceptional Needs</u>	<u>3</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	12

3rd Semester

CHD 100	Introduction to Early Care and Education of Children	3
CHD 204	Methods and Materials for Teaching Young Children	3
CIS 146	Microcomputer Applications	3
<u>HUM 101*</u>	<u>Intro. to Humanities</u>	<u>3</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	12

4th Semester

CHD 202	Children’s Creative Experiences	3
MTH 116*	Mathematical Applications	3
PSY 200*	General Psychology	3
<u>PHS 111*</u>	<u>Physical Science</u>	<u>4</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	13

5th Semester

SPH 106*	Oral Communication (or SPH 107)	3
ENG 261*	English Literature	3
CHD 208	Administration of Child Development Programs	3
<u>CHD 215****</u>	<u>Supervised Practical Experience</u>	<u>3</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	12
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS		63

CERTIFICATE:

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE – Guided Pathway/Map

Fall Semester

ORI 110**	Freshman Seminar	1
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
CHD 203	Children’s Literature and Language Development	3
CHD 206	Children’s Health and Safety	3
<u>CHD 209</u>	<u>Infant & Toddler Education Programs</u>	<u>3</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	13

Spring Semester

MTH 116*	Mathematical Applications	3
CHD 201	Child Growth & Development Principles	3
CHD 205	Program Planning for Educating Young Child	3
<u>CHD 210</u>	<u>Educating Children with Exceptional Needs</u>	<u>3</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	12

Fall or Summer Semester

PHS 111*	Physical Science	4
HUM 101*	Humanities 101	3
CHD 100	Introduction to Early Care and Edu of Child	3
CHD 204	Methods and Materials for	
	Total Semester Credit Hours	13

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 38

SHORT-TERM CERTIFICATES:

INFANT/TODDLER SHORT CERTIFICATE– Guided Pathway/Map

Fall or Summer Semester

CHD 100	Introduction to Early Care and Edu of Child	3
CHD 206	Children’s Health and Safety	3
<u>CHD 209</u>	<u>Infant & Toddler Education Programs</u>	<u>3</u>
	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	9

PRESCHOOL/FAMILY CHILD CARE SHORT CERTIFICATE– Guided Pathway/Map

Fall or Summer Semester

CHD 100	Introduction to Early Care and Edu of Child	3
CHD 206	Children’s Health and Safety	3
CHD 204	Materials and Methods for Teaching Young Children	3
	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	9

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SHORT CERTIFICATE– Guided Pathway/Map

Fall or Summer Semester

CHD 209	Infant and Toddler Education Programs	3
CHD 206	Children’s Health and Safety	3
Choose one:		
CHD 203	Children’s Literature and Language Dev	3
CHD 204	Materials and Methods for Teaching Young Children	3
<u>CHD 205</u>	<u>Program Planning for Edu Young Child</u>	<u>3</u>
	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	9

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SHORT CERTIFICATE-- Guided**Pathway/Map****Spring Semester**

CHD 201	Child Growth and Development Principles	3
CHD 205	Program Planning for Educating Young Children	3
CHD 210	Educating Children with Exceptional Needs	3
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS		9

**May be substituted per advisor's approval*

***ORI 110 (Freshman Seminar) is a college requirement, not a requirement of a specific program. You are exempt from Freshman Seminar 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. ORI 110 is required for incoming freshmen in all divisions.*

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

***** Requires entry into the CHD Program.*

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) CREDENTIAL**REQUIRED COURSES (1-2 semesters)**

The courses offered are designed to fulfill partial requirements for the CDA Credential. The CDA is awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition and is not awarded by Wallace State. Additional CDA credential requirements are the student's responsibility. The following courses meet the requirements for 120 clock hours of professional educational training for the CDA:

CHD 100	Intro. to Early Care and Education of Children	3
CHD 204	Methods and Materials for Teaching Young Children or (CHD 209 Infant and Toddler Education Programs for Infant-Toddler credential only)	3
CHD 206	Children's Health and Safety	3
Total Semester Credit Hours		9

If you are considering the CDA, please check the Council's website at <http://www.cdacouncil.org> for additional requirements and information.

For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at <http://www.wallacestate.edu/Programs/Health-Division/Child-Development>.