

EDUCATION: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MAJORS (Suggested Associate in Arts Degree Curriculum)

This worksheet has been designed to help students select courses which are likely to apply to a major in **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**. These suggested courses satisfy requirements in the Associate in Arts degree program at Prairie State College and provide the basis for transferring to a four-year institution. This program meets the guidelines of the **IAI (Illinois Articulation Initiative) General Education Core**. Students should obtain a copy of the Prairie State College **Associate in Arts Degree Worksheet** and should visit the IAI website at www.iTransfer.org for more information.

STATE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

To teach in young children (birth to age 8) in Illinois public schools, teachers must be certified by the State of Illinois upon completion of their baccalaureate degree program. To transfer into an approved baccalaureate program in early childhood education as a junior, students must complete a minimum of 60 semester credits. Since admission is competitive, completion of the courses recommended below does not guarantee admission. Community college students are strongly encouraged to complete an Associate in Arts degree prior to transfer. Students should be aware that a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale is usually required for program admission, and passage of a basic skills test (www.icts.nesinc.com) which includes reading, writing, grammar, and math, as a university requirement for program admission. Most schools require a criminal background check prior to enrolling in field experience courses. Students should consult an academic advisor at the community college and senior university early and often.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING CERTIFICATES IN ILLINOIS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD/ELEMENTARY

- Early Childhood - Valid for teaching children birth to grade three.
- Elementary - Valid for teaching children kindergarten through grade nine.
- Special/Special Education - Valid for teaching children with disabilities from pre-school to age 21.

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM

Each senior institution has its own transfer policies. Therefore, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information in regard to every individual school. Consult the school of your choice and/or the PSC Advising Center to discuss the transferability of courses.

TRANSFERABLE GENERAL EDUCATION CORE (42-43 credits)

Area A: Communications (9 credits)

ENG 101 (3) [C1 900]*	Composition I (Prereq. ENG 099, C or better, or qualifying score on English Placement Test)
ENG 102 (3) [C1 901R]*	Composition II (Prereq. ENG 101 with C or better)
COMM 101 (3) [C2 900]	Principles of Communication (3) (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

**Must have "C" or better in ENG 101 & 102 to receive credit for the degree.*

Area B: Humanities and Fine Arts (9 credits)

Select three courses with at least one course selected from the humanities area and one course from the fine arts area. Refer to the Associate in Arts Degree Worksheet, Area B, for a listing of approved course choices.

Humanities Course (3)	Select any Area B Humanities Course (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
Fine Arts Course (3)	ART 131 - Survey of Non-Western Art recommended
ENG ____ (3)	Select any literature course except ENG 220. (Prereq. ENG 101, C or better)

Area C: Mathematics (8 credits) (See Math Note before choosing a math course)

MATH 200 (4)	Math for Elementary Teaching I (Prereq. MATH 095 & 096 with C or better OR MATH 095 and high school geometry, both with C or better OR qualifying score on Math Placement Test)
MATH 206 (4) [M1 903]	Math for Elementary Teaching II (Prereq. MATH 200 with C or better)

MATH NOTE: Other math course choices might include: MATH 112 or 115. However check with your transfer school to determine if these courses meet teacher certification requirements.

Area D: Physical and Life Sciences (7-8 credits)

Select one life science course and one physical science course. One course must have a lab component. Refer to the Associate in Arts Degree Worksheet, Area D, for a listing of approved course choices.

Life Science Course (4)	(Four credit lab science recommended for Illinois teaching certificate)
Physical Science Course (4)	(Four credit lab science recommended for Illinois teaching certificate)

Area E: Social and Behavioral Sciences (9 credits)

HIST 201 (3) [S2 900]	or HIST 202 [S2 901] U.S. History (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
POLSC 140 (3) [S5 900]	Intro to U.S. Government & Politics (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
PSYCH 101 (3) [S6 900]	Introduction to Psychology (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MAJOR COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS (19 credits)

(Check with the school to which you plan to transfer to verify transferability of these courses for this major)

Select 19 credits from the “suggested” course recommendations listed below:

Suggested professional Early Childhood Education Core courses include:

ED 100 (3)*	Foundations of American Public Education (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
ED 101 (3)*	Child Growth & Development (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
ECED 104 (3)*	Introduction to Early Childhood Education

Select one additional course from:

ED 160 (3)*	Technology for Teachers
ED 212 (3)*	Exceptional Child (3) (Prereq. ED 101)
PSYCH 202 (3)*	Educational Psychology (Prereq. PSYCH 101)

**Education departments at baccalaureate institutions tend to require a grade of C or better in these courses. It may be in the student's best interest to repeat a course taken more than 5 years before transfer since some schools may not accept these courses.*

Other suggested education electives often include:

ECED 103 (3) Health, Safety and Nutrition**

OR HLTH 101 (2) Health and Wellness

Additional Humanities course (3)

Additional Science course (3-4)

One Non-Western Cultures course from ART 131, GEOG 101, HUMAN 101, or HIST 115, 116, 140 (3) (unless already selected as a general education course choice in Area B)

***Before enrolling in any additional courses with an “ECED” or “EDU” prefixes at PSC, consult an advisor to determine the transferability of these courses. Some senior institutions will not transfer these courses into a teacher education program.*

Other suggested courses which satisfy the PSC AA degree requirements may include electives such as:

Any additional general education courses selected from Areas B, C, D, or E

Any entry level majors course in a transferable major area

Any foreign language courses***

Up to four credits of physical education courses

Additional courses recommended as transferable by the school to which you plan to transfer.

****Foreign Language Requirement: Some universities have a foreign language requirement. Generally, four years of a single foreign language in high school, or four semesters in college, will fulfill this requirement. It is recommended that students complete the entire sequence at one institution.*

62 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR AN ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Counseling & Advising Center	Room 1190	(708) 709-3506	
Chris Fogarty, Associate Professor/Education	Room 2165	(708) 709-3628	cfogarty@prairiestate.edu
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FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

Illinois State Board of Education: www.isbe.state.il.us

Approved Teacher Certification Programs in Illinois: www.isbe.net/profprep/PDFs/Directory.pdf

Certification information for new teachers in Illinois: www.isbe.net/certification/html/becoming_teacher.htm

Illinois Certification Testing System (Basic Skills Test): www.icts.nesinc.com

FOR TRANSFER INFORMATION:

u.select, formerly known as Course Applicability System (CAS): www.transfer.org

Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI): www.iTransfer.org

Links to Articulation Tables for Illinois Colleges: <http://www.itransfer.org/IAI/Other/Articulationlinks.taf>

Visit the web sites of colleges and universities to which you plan to transfer.

FOR CAREER INFORMATION:

Occupational Outlook Handbook, U.S. Department of Labor: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>