State-Approved (Chapter 74)
Program Overview

Early Education and Care

Early Education and Care professionals support the development, safety, and well-being of young children—providing a meaningful service that has a profound impact on our economy.

What Students Learn & Do

Early Education and Care students learn and practice the principles of high quality early childhood programming. Training includes the fundamentals of child development, theories of early childhood education, teaching methods and professional standards defined by the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This technical expertise is put into practice through supervised positions as early education and care student teachers.

Practical experiences provide students with opportunities to incorporate materials and activities that are developmentally and interest appropriate into the daily curriculum of a child care center. Students also develop their professionalism and communication skills with both children and parents/caregivers. Workplace and child health and safety are emphasized throughout the curriculum.

Students in Early Education and Care programs are required to meet the same high academic standards as their peers in other high school programs. These standards are set by the State of Massachusetts. In addition, the curriculum provides focused exploration of sociology and psychology while underscoring core concepts of mathematics and english language arts.

Licenses & Certifications

Programs will prepare students to earn industry-recognized credentials, and typically students will be able to complete one or more before they graduate from high school. Examples:

- Adult/Infant and Child CPR w/AED
- Heartsaver Adult/Pediatric First Aid
- OSHA 10 hour - General
- Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Infant/Toddler and Preschool Teacher Licensure Preparation

Options After High School

State-Approved (Chapter 74) programs provide precise training needed for entry-level employment. Here are some possible career opportunities for Early Education and Care program graduates.

High School Diploma	Associate Degree (2 Years)	Bachelor's Degree (4 Years of College)	Advanced Degree
• Infant/Toddler Teacher • Preschool Teacher	• Public School Paraprofessional	• EEC Lead Teacher • EEC Center Director • Public Elementary School Teacher	• Social Worker • Child Psychologist • Occupational or Physical Therapist

Questions to Ask a Program You Are Considering

1. **What workplace experiences do you offer to students - at school, or with an employer?**
2. **What are some common next steps for graduates of this program and how do you support them to get there?**

Learn about the differences between State-Approved (Chapter 74) and Local programs:
http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/cvte/cte-families/state-vs-local.html