

Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) Degree

Early Childhood Education Model Outline

March 2005

General Education Component*	40 semester credits
Communication: (Two-course writing sequence and one course in oral communications.)	9 semester credits
Mathematics:	6 semester credits
Physical and Life Sciences: (To include physical sciences, life sciences, environmental science, and earth and space science. One course must be a laboratory course.)	7 semester credits
Humanities & Fine Arts: (To include music, drama, dance and visual arts.)	9 semester credits
Social and Behavioral Sciences: (To include history, geography, economics, and political science.)	9 semester credits

*A college may require a greater number of general education hours than the model suggests, but consideration should be given to the total number of hours in the degree and the possibility that additional hours may not be accepted in transfer.

Professional Education Component	6 - 9 semester credits
Required:	
Introduction to Education (with a clinical component*)	
Child Growth and Development	
May choose 3 additional credits from:	
Educational Technology	
Educational Psychology	
Students with Disabilities in the Schools	

*The clinical component should include field experiences in a variety of educational settings. For students intending to pursue an AAT Early Childhood degree, it would be appropriate for half the number of hours to be spent in early childhood environments. A variety of assignments and activities should be included, with artifacts and assessments documented. A minimum of 15 contact hours of field experience is required.

Major Area – Early Childhood

15 to 18 semester credits

Required:

Introduction to Early Childhood Education (with a clinical component)

The remaining semester credits must include identified standards in the following areas:

Learning Experiences
Learning Environment
Relationships: Child, Family, Community
Assessment

Please note: Additional field experience hours may be incorporated into courses in the major area of early childhood education. A separate, one-hour course focusing solely on field experience activities may be included, as well; however, students should be aware that such a course may not be transferable.

Degree Requirements:

**Successful completion of the Illinois Test of Basic Skills
Initiation of standards-based professional portfolio
Evidence of appropriate professional dispositions**

Total semester credit hours for the degree:

64 semester credits
