

# Evaluating Early Childhood Coursework

## About this Guide:

This guide is a resource to show example courses that may assist a provider in meeting staff qualifications. ECE courses are considered birth to 3rd grade and the course examples below may match ECE Competency Areas, even when the course title is not specifically early childhood education. For more information on ECE Competency Areas, see our publication *Washington State Core Competencies for Early Care and Education (EPS\_0023)* available online at [www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS\\_0023.pdf](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS_0023.pdf). Through the education application process, some college credits earned may be broken down into multiple competency areas to help educators meet as many competency areas as possible, and some classes may only have part of their credits counted depending on the outcomes of the course.

## How to use this Guide:

Consider the courses you or your staff have, or courses you may want to take if you are working towards meeting staff qualifications. Keep in mind the following criteria as you use this resource:

- A related degree—When someone has a degree with 30 credits in ECE that includes 2 credits per each Core Competency Area.
- Aligned credits – When someone has a collection of college credits that match the core competencies. This person may or may not have a degree.

## Questions?

If your degree or coursework is not referenced in the tables below, but may meet an ECE Competency Area, contact [merit@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:merit@dcyf.wa.gov).



COMPETENCY AREA	FOCUS AREAS TOPICS MAY INCLUDE:	COURSEWORK EXAMPLES <i>This list contains common examples, but is not all inclusive.</i>
<p><b>Child Growth and Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brain development/cognition</li> <li>• Physical and social characteristics and needs</li> <li>• Developmental behaviors</li> <li>• Introduction to developmental theorists</li> <li>• Curriculum to address development</li> <li>• Behaviors/learning related to unmet needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Development</li> <li>• Human Development – Lifespan (HD)</li> <li>• Child Development (ECE, EDUC, EDPSYCH, PSYCH, SPED, HD)</li> <li>• Developmental Psychology (PSYCH)</li> <li>• Educational Psychology (SPED)</li> <li>• Exceptional Child</li> <li>• Child Growth &amp; Development</li> <li>• Current Issues in Brain Development</li> </ul>





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<b>Curriculum and Learning Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developmentally and culturally appropriate Curriculum development, implementation, evaluation and assessment</li> <li>• Teaching techniques</li> <li>• Promoting Physical Development</li> <li>• Promoting Cognitive Development</li> <li>• Promoting Language and Communication Development</li> <li>• Promoting Social/Emotional Development</li> <li>• Promoting Creative Expression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum for Early Childhood Programs</li> <li>• Curriculum in the Classroom in ECE</li> <li>• Teaching Each Student (SPED)</li> <li>• Curriculum and Play in the Classroom</li> <li>• Environments for Early Learning</li> <li>• Language &amp; Literacy</li> <li>• Curriculum Development (ECED)</li> <li>• Infant Toddler Care</li> <li>• Family Child Care</li> <li>• Math in the Early Learning Classroom</li> </ul>
<b>Ongoing Measurement of Child Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observation</li> <li>• Assessment</li> <li>• Planning and providing curriculum to meet developmental and learning needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observational Study/Methods</li> <li>• Child Assessment and Evaluation (ECE, EDUC, HD prefixes)</li> <li>• Assessment, Evaluation &amp; IEP</li> <li>• Observation/Assessment</li> <li>• ECE Classroom Experience—birth to 3rd grade (not limited to):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Teaching Practicums</li> <li>– Classroom Experience</li> <li>– Supervised Teaching</li> <li>– Service Learning in the Classroom</li> <li>– Direct Teaching</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<b>Family and Community Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culturally competent and responsive family and community communication and outreach</li> <li>• Healthy parenting</li> <li>• Relationships with Families</li> <li>• Use of Community Resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultures and Family (ANTH)</li> <li>• Family Systems: Understanding Family Interactions (HD)</li> <li>• Diversity in Contemporary Families (HD)</li> <li>• Child, Family &amp; Community (EDUC)</li> <li>• Sociology of the Family (SOC)</li> <li>• Geography of Childhood</li> <li>• Collaboration: Working with Parents and Professionals (EDSPE)</li> <li>• Diversity in Contemporary Families</li> <li>• Education, Culture &amp; Equity (SPED)</li> <li>• Culturally Relevant Anti-bias Strategies</li> <li>• Disability, Education &amp; the Arts (EDPSYCH)</li> <li>• Multiethnic Curriculum and Instruction (EDC&amp;I)</li> <li>• Educating Native-American Youth</li> <li>• Diversity in Education</li> <li>• African American family</li> <li>• Cultural Awareness</li> <li>• Ethnic Minority Family</li> <li>• Ethics – relevant to staff working with children (Up to 2 college credits)</li> </ul>
<b>Health, Safety and Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of Regulations</li> <li>• Environmental Safety</li> <li>• Responding to Health Needs of Children</li> <li>• Nutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Abuse and Neglect (EDUC, ECE, PSYC)</li> <li>• Health, Safety &amp; Nutrition</li> <li>• Health and Children</li> <li>• Nutrition (Up to 2 college credits)</li> </ul>
<b>Interactions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing Individual Guidance</li> <li>• Enhancing Group Experiences</li> </ul>	<p>ECE focused—birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance and Relationships</li> <li>• Child Guidance</li> <li>• Interventions for Classroom Management</li> <li>• Behavior Management</li> <li>• Educating Children with Diverse Backgrounds</li> <li>• Guiding Behavior (EDUC)</li> <li>• Practicum: Focus on Relationships</li> </ul>

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<b>Program Planning and Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Planning and Evaluation</li> <li>• Financial Management</li> <li>• Personnel Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Math</li> <li>• Business Courses (not limited to):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Program planning</li> <li>– Ethics in Business</li> <li>– Marketing</li> <li>– Human Resources</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Grant Writing</li> <li>• Practicum and direct teaching courses such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Family Child Care</li> <li>– Admin of ECE</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Intro to ECE</li> <li>• Intro to Communications</li> <li>• Public Speaking</li> <li>• Culturally Relevant Anti-bias Strategies</li> <li>• Cultural Awareness</li> <li>• Ethics – relevant to staff working with children (Up to 2 college credits)</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Development and Leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Displaying Professionalism in Practice</li> <li>• Ongoing Professional Growth</li> <li>• Leadership and Advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of Early Childhood Programs (ECE, EDUC, HD prefixes)</li> <li>• Learning and Teaching in our Changing World (EDPSYCH)</li> <li>• Professionalism</li> <li>• Inequalities and Impacts on Educational Equity</li> <li>• Intercultural or Interpersonal Communication (COM)</li> <li>• Intro to ECE</li> <li>• Current Issues in ECE</li> <li>• ECE Staff Development</li> <li>• Admin of Early Learning</li> <li>• Ethics (up to 2 college credits)</li> </ul>
<b>Additional credit bearing coursework which meets a number of competencies</b>		<p>ECE Classroom Experience—birth to 3rd grade (not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching Practicums</li> <li>• Classroom Experience</li> <li>• Supervised Teaching</li> <li>• Service Learning</li> <li>• Direct Teaching</li> </ul>

For a complete description of Washington State’s Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals, see our publication *Washington State Core Competencies for Early Care and Education (EPS\_0023)* available online at [www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS\\_0023.pdf](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS_0023.pdf).