

So, you want to work with children...

Here are some options for you to consider when choosing your major:

In all cases, be sure to speak with a counselor and/or a faculty advisor prior to selecting your major.

If you want to work with children ages 0-8 (including infant and toddler programs, preschool programs, early elementary, and afterschool programs):

[Associates of Science in Early Childhood Education](#)

This degree is intended for students who wish to go directly into the workforce after graduation from COD. The degree was designed to facilitate students' successful pursuit in a variety of careers in Early Childhood Education such as Assistant Teacher, Teacher, Child Development Specialist. While not intended as a transfer degree, it is important to note that students may complete additional general education units and transfer upon completion of this degree. See a counselor for advice.

[We also offer several certificates in ECE:](#) (Certificates are awarded by College of the Desert, to work with children you will need a permit from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. <http://www.ctc.ca.gov>)

[Associates of Science in Early Childhood Education for Transfer](#)

This degree transfers to California State University (CSU). It is important to note that CSU San Bernardino does not have an ECE major, but they do have a Psychology major with an emphasis in Child Development. That major path accepts most of our ECE classes, but not all of our ECE classes. Be sure to check with CSUSB if that is your transfer choice. The closest CSU with an ECE major is Cal. State Fullerton.

If you want to work with children and families in other careers:

[Associate of Arts in Child and Adolescent Development for Transfer](#)

This degree transfers to California State University (CSU). California State University at San Bernardino has a [Child Development Track](#). Students completing this degree typically want to work in school districts as paraprofessionals, or for social services programs as entry level social workers. Students completing this type of degree usually work in education, social services, counseling and guidance, or in the field of health.

If you want to work in Elementary Education:

[Associate of Arts in Elementary Teacher Education for Transfer \(multiple subject credential\)](#)

This degree transfers to California State University (CSU) in the Liberal Studies Department. To teach in elementary school you will need a bachelor's degree plus a credential. A credential program requires a fifth year of study beyond your bachelor's degree. You can complete this program at CSU. **It is important to note that you can get into a multiple subject credential program with a bachelor's degree in any subject. This degree is only recommended if you are positive that you are going to become a teacher. This degree does not qualify you for any other occupation.**

[Early Childhood Education Programs](#)

Early childhood education (ECE) is the study of child development and developmentally appropriate practices for young children. Career paths chosen by students pursuing undergraduate studies in ECE commonly include infant/toddler or preschool teachers and administrators. Careers in the discipline that generally require graduate-level degrees include administrators of government funded programs like Head Start and state preschools. Even students who choose not to major in ECE find that coursework in the field improves their parenting skills.

College of the Desert's ECE curriculum includes course offerings that provide a general overview of the discipline, as well as teaching strategies that are developmentally appropriate for young children. Students earning ECE certificates may also choose to continue their study toward an associate, baccalaureate or advanced degree in the field. Students earning an associate's degree in ECE may pursue entry-level positions as preschool teachers or may choose to continue their study in the discipline toward a bachelor's or graduate degree. COD has transfer agreements with CSUSB, in this discipline/program. However, transfer requirements at four-year colleges and universities tend to vary from institution to institution; students should consult with a counselor for specific information regarding the transfer requirements of their preferred college or university. For more information please call (760) 773-2579 or (760)568-3093

Advisors: Faculty are academic advisors who can help you plan your career path and with choosing classes in your field of study.

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There is a list of all courses offered in ECE : [Catalog Course List](#)

All students must create an educational plan with the [assistance of a counselor](#). Ask for Elise King.

Students can gain valuable experience at our [McCarthy Family Child Development Laboratory Program](#)

When you are ready to begin your job search, be sure to go to the [COD Job Hub](#)

Finally, our [Career and Workforce Solutions Center](#) can help you with job search and more!



SB 792 Immunization Requirements

Anyone wishing to work with children in the state of California must have proof of certain immunizations. It is wise for you to gather your evidence as soon as possible when considering this field of study. Keep your evidence with your important papers and be prepared to present, when assigned to observe or work with children in our McCarthy Center Lab School or any other school you may be required to provide the following:

Proof Required
Current Negative TB Test (no more than one year old at the time of observation)
Proof of Immunity to Measles (see below)
TDAP (within last 10 years)
Current Flu Vaccine (or statement to decline)
COD Student ID

Proof of Immunity to Measles can be demonstrated in one of the following ways:
(only one of the following is needed):

1. Documented proof of 2 doses of MMR (Measles/Mumps/Rubella) **or**,
2. Laboratory evidence (also known as a titer) **or**,
3. Born before 1957 (Assumption is made that the student is immune as the vaccine hadn't come out yet so everybody got the disease)

(If you are unsure of your immunization status, go to our [COD Health Center](#) for help in getting up to date. You can see a nurse to review your records and needs. The Health and Wellness Center can order titers and provide TB testing.)

Services covered by your student health fee are:

- health evaluations (including pregnancy, sore throat, urine and blood glucose tests)
- first aid
- health education and consultation
- referrals
- vision screening
- process all COD student accident insurance claims
- tuberculosis screening (TB Test)
- mental health services
- low cost flu vaccine
- low cost titers for students in various health majors
- low cost vaccines

Child Development Permit Overview

What is the Permit?

The Permit is a credential that is issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. It is similar to the K-8 Credential but is specialized for working only with children from birth through preschool age. It is also required for after-school programs that are funded through the state.

Do I Need a Permit?

If you work in an agency that receives government funding, it is required. It is not required for private programs. However, Community Care Licensing recognizes that holders of the Permit are qualified to teach in Title 22 programs and you will not be required to obtain copies of transcripts. Family Child Care providers are also not required to have the permit. However, it is good to show parents that you are as prepared as center staff.

Do I Qualify for a Permit?

In order to qualify for the first level of the permit, you need to have 6 units of ECE course work completed with a grade of C or better.

How Can I Apply?

You can apply for the permit by going to the [Child Development Training Consortium](#) and downloading the First Time Center Based Application. You can get reimbursed for up to \$49.00 of the cost of the live scan and have your permit application fee paid by the Child Development Training Consortium.

What does it Cost?

First time applicants must submit a Livescan form (41-LS) and fees. The Livescan operator collects a fee for processing the clearance. The Child Development Training Consortium will reimburse you up to \$49.00 of that fee, when you submit your application through them and include a receipt for the cost. The cost of the application is \$100.00. The Training Consortium will pay your fee for you if you submit your application through them. (Those funds are limited and may not be available certain times of the year)

Who Can I Turn to for More Help?

The professors in ECE at College of the Desert are here to help you with this process:

Maria Avalos maavalos@collegeofthedesert.edu

Donna Greene dgreene@collegeofthedesert.edu

Wendy Sanders wsanders@collegeofthedesert.edu