



This one-year program provides students with the knowledge and skills required to work with young children, birth to age eight, to address the significant shortage of qualified early care and education teachers. The program is offered to a maximum of 15 high school juniors and seniors who are on-schedule for meeting their high school graduation requirements.

Program Qualifications:

- Students must meet JTCC minimum acceptance criteria.
- Students must submit a teacher or guidance counselor letter of recommendation.
- Students must submit an essay on “Why I Want to be an Early Childhood Teacher.”

Program Costs:

- Tuition and books are generally covered by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) scholarships.
- Criminal history and child abuse and neglect background Investigations are required prior to the field practicum, as well as a tuberculosis screening/test.

Program Credentials:

Students who complete this program will receive an Early Childhood Career Studies Certificate (CSC). Students completing the CSC will have earned 16 of the 62 credits required for the Early Childhood Development (ECH) Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree.

Beginning Spring 2019, the ECH AAS degree is transferable to GMU and JMU to lead to PreK-3 teacher licensure. Additional Virginia universities are working toward acceptance of the ECH AAS credits as well.