

Major in Early Childhood Studies

College of Health and Human Sciences Northern Illinois University

Transfer Guide for Illinois Community College Students

The mission of the School of Family, Consumer, and Nutrition Sciences at Northern Illinois University is to generate and transmit knowledge that supports families and individuals in meeting human needs for self development, social interaction, resource allocation, clothing, food and nutrition, and hospitality. All programs lay the groundwork for graduate study.

The School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences and the Department of Teaching and Learning offer a collaborative program leading to a B.S. degree with a major in [early childhood studies](#). The School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences offers an emphasis in 04 Certification and the Department of Teaching and Learning offers an emphasis in 04 certification with preschool special ed approval. For more information about the emphasis in 04 certification with preschool special ed approval, contact the Department of Teaching and Learning.

The 04 certification emphasis is designed to meet the high demand for teachers, in public and private school settings including Illinois Pre-Kindergarten, kindergarten, and elementary school grades 1-3, who are prepared to work with parents, work with diverse populations, and engage in the creation of family-school-community partnerships. Students graduating from this program emerge with an in-depth background in child and human development, including understanding of both typical and atypical children and understanding of children within the context of child, family, and community. Also, students emerge with a strong understanding of the classroom as a community of learners with unique and similar needs based on individual, family, and cultural contexts.

In addition to the above pedagogical courses and the sequence of pre-clinical and student teaching experiences, students in this emphasis take courses such as child and family relationships, theories of child development and learning, parenting and parent education, child guidance, child abuse and neglect, cultural diversity, and pedagogical courses which focus on working with individual and groups of children, including those for whom development is delayed or at-risk in inclusive classrooms. The early childhood studies program has been approved by the Illinois State Board of Education and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The early childhood studies major is a limited admissions program which requires students to submit a program application directly to the school office. Applications for fall admissions are due by March 1. Prospective students should make formal application to the School of Family, Consumer, and Nutrition Sciences by March 1 of their sophomore year.

Before formally applying for admission to the early childhood studies major, a student must have attained an overall GPA of 2.75 including transfer credit, successfully completed the ICTS Basic Skills Test, provided written proof from an agency of having been fingerprinted, provided verification of TB test and completed the necessary pre-major courses with a grade of “C” or better. Students admitted to

NIU will be classified as pre-early childhood studies majors until they have been formally accepted to the early childhood studies major.

A student who has completed the above stated requirements is eligible to apply to the major in early childhood studies, but satisfying these requirements does not guarantee admission. Admission is competitive based on the GPA in work taken at NIU and/or transferred from other institution(s), the quality of the application essay, and successful experience working with young children.

This transfer guide is designed as an advising tool to facilitate a smooth transition between institutions by identifying relevant course work recommended to be completed prior to transfer. Community college students are advised to also complete an A.A. or A.S. degree prior to transfer and to consult the [NIU Articulation Handbook](#) for information regarding the transferability of courses. To view course equivalencies, students are encouraged to review the section on [Limited Admissions Programs Transfer Course Equivalents](#) provided by the NIU Transfer Center. All students planning to transfer are advised to consult with the College of Health and Human Sciences for detailed information.

A student who enters the program with the courses as listed below and who have completed an A.A. or A.S. degree can usually expect to complete the NIU program in two years. All students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Dual Admissions program if attending one of the community colleges that has an agreement in place with NIU. This will enable students to take some of the suggested courses recommended prior to transfer at NIU, if the community college does not offer courses equivalent to NIU's courses. Students who participate in the Dual Admissions agreement and earn an A.A. or A.S. degree will be entitled to the same academic benefits as undergraduates new to NIU regardless of previous enrollment at NIU. You can contact NIU's Office of Admissions or your community college for further information.

Major in Early Childhood Studies (04 Certification)¹

Courses Recommended Prior to Transfer

ENGL 103*	Rhetoric and Composition I (3)
ENGL 104*	Rhetoric and Composition II (3)
BIOS 103***	General Biology (3)
or BIOS 104***	General Biology (4)
or BIOS 109***	Human Biology (3)
COMS 100*	Fundamentals of Oral Communication (3)
EPFE 201**	Education as an Agent for Change (3)
FCNS 230*	Child Development (3)
FCNS 231	An Observational Approach to the Study of Young Children (3)
FCNS 284***	Introduction to Family Relationships (3)
HIST 260**	American History to 1865 (3)
or HIST 261**	American History since 1865 (3)
MATH 201**	Foundations of Elementary School Mathematics (3)
PHIL 231**	Contemporary Moral Issues (3)
POLS 100	American Government and Politics (3)
or POLS 150	Democracy in America (3)
PSYC 102*	Introduction to Psychology (3)
STAT 208***	Basic Statistics (3)
TLSE 240***	Introduction to Special Education (3)

¹ Based on requirements in the 2008-2009 *Undergraduate Catalog*

* requires a C or better for admission to the early childhood studies major at NIU (refer to catalog).
** requires a C or better in two of the (**) courses for admission to the early childhood studies major at NIU (refer to catalog).
*** requires a C or better before admission to the professional semesters at NIU (refer to catalog)

Courses to be Completed at NIU

ETT 229***	Computers in Education (3) or pass ETT proficiency examination (0)
FCNS 330	Principles of Guiding Young Children (3)
FCNS 331	Inclusive Program Planning for Infants, Toddlers and Their Parents (3)
FCNS 331A	Practicum in Early Childhood Studies: Infants and Toddlers (1)
FCNS 405	Child Health and Nutrition (3)
FCNS 432	Theories of Child Development (3)
FCNS 437	Parent-Child Interaction from Birth to 8 Years (3)
FCNS 439	Infant Development in the Family: Typical and Atypical (3)
FCNS 488	Working with Ethnically Diverse Children and Families in the U.S. (3)
LTLA 403X	Language Development (3)
	or COMD 403, Language Development (3)
LTRE 309	Emerging Literacy and Beginning Reading Instruction through Age 8 (3)
TLEC 282	Educational Participation in Clinical Experiences: Early Childhood Education (1-2)
TLEC 382	Practicum in Early Childhood Studies (3)
TLEC 403	Primary Curriculum (3)
TLEC 430	Preschool and Kindergarten Curriculum (3)
TLEC 485A	Student Teaching in Preschool-Kindergarten (3-12)
TLEC 485B	Student Teaching in Primary (3-12)
TLEE 340	Language Arts and Social Studies for the Primary Child (3)
TLEE 343	Teaching Science and Mathematics to Children Ages 5-8 (3)

Specific information about admission requirements to Northern Illinois University and to programs in the College of Health and Human Sciences can be found in the current [NIU Undergraduate Catalog](#). Contact the Office of Admissions to obtain an application for admission. For additional information on programs in the college, contact HHSAdvisingHelp@niu.edu

- ❖ College of Health and Human Sciences (815) 753-1891
- ❖ Department of Military Science (815) 752-7682
- ❖ School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
 - Clinical Laboratory Sciences (815) 753-1382
 - Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Rehabilitation Counseling (815) 753-1484
 - Physical Therapy (815) 753-1383
- ❖ School of Family, Consumer, and Nutrition Sciences (815) 753-6350
- ❖ School of Nursing and Health Studies
 - Nursing (815) 753-1231
 - Health Studies (815) 753-1891
- ❖ Gerontology Program (815) 753-0031
- ❖ Office of Admissions (815) 753-0446

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