

ECE Higher Education Initiatives in Rhode Island

The following early childhood education (ECE) higher education initiatives are available to early childhood educators currently working in the field who want to increase their knowledge and skills and advance their careers and credentials. These initiatives are supported by funding from the RI Department of Human Services.

Community College of Rhode Island

RI Early Childhood Education and Training Program (RIECETP)

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(Administered by the Community College of RI and funded by the RI Department of Human Services)

Early Childhood Educators working in programs enrolled in CCAP with children ages birth through five in a DCYF-licensed center or family child care setting may qualify to receive 12 college credits in Early Childhood Education at no cost with the use of textbooks.

- Courses will be offered at the Community College of RI.
- Courses will be offered in the evenings.
- Students will participate in a cohort model (will remain together throughout the program).
- Students will receive coaching and mentoring.
- Students must receive a grade of “C” or better in all Human Services (HMNS) courses.

Courses offered:

- HMNS 2100 – Child Growth and Development Skills
- HMNS 2150 – Parent and Child Relations
- HMNS 2120 – Curriculum for Young Children
- HMNS 2140 – Guiding Children’s Behavior

Grant requirements:

- Applicant must be employed for a minimum of 20 hours in a licensed child care center or family child care setting.
- Applicant must be working with infants, toddlers, or preschool-aged children.
- Applicant must complete the RIECETP grant application: [RIECETP Application](#)
- Applicant must apply to CCRI and complete the Accuplacer test.
- Applicant’s center must be in good standing with DCYF licensing.
- Applicant’s center must be approved with the DHS–Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and serving CCAP children.
- Applicant’s center must be actively enrolled in and rated by the RI Quality Rating and Improvement System known as BrightStars.

**R.I. Early Childhood Education and Training Program Grant
Infant/Toddler Child Development Associate Credential (CDA)
Family Child Care Child Development Associate Credential (CDA)**

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(Administered by the Community College of RI and funded by the RI Department of Human Services)

The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential is a highly regarded credential recognized nationally and in the RI BrightStars Quality Rating and Improvement System.

- The CCRI–CDA cohort program is a FREE instructional program.
- The program is available to child care providers working with infants and toddlers or licensed family child care providers.
- Upon completion of the CCRI–CDA program, eligible students can apply to the RI T.E.A.C.H scholarship program to cover a portion of the cost of the Council for Professional Recognition CDA exam.
- Upon receipt of the Nationally Accredited CDA certificate, the student will be eligible to Receive a \$100.00 bonus paid by RI T.E.A.C.H.

To qualify, your center/family child care must:

- Be in good standing and hold a current DCYF license
- Be approved with the DHS–Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and serving CCAP children
- Be actively enrolled in and rated by the RI Quality Rating and Improvement System known as BrightStars

The 14-week Cohort model will meet weekly to assist participants to:

- Receive instruction to gain an understanding of the 6 CDA Competency Standards
- Receive guidance in preparing the Professional Portfolio
- Receive guidance in developing a Philosophy Statement
- Develop Community Supports
- Link to the RI T.E.A.C.H. coordinator for scholarship funds and exam registration assistance
- Receive 42 hours of RI State Approved Professional Development Hours
- Receive guidance in completing the CDA online application process and pre-exam requirements
- **Family child care providers will also receive technology training on Google Docs.

Early Childhood Education Certificate

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The certificate in Early Childhood Education is for the working student who wishes to improve or upgrade his/her knowledge and skills in early childhood development and child care.

- Courses offered days and evenings.
- All courses directly apply toward the department's A.A. degree.
- The Early Childhood Certificate is not a teaching credential for the R.I. Department of Education.

The Certificate Program includes eight 3-credit courses for 24 credits:

- HMNS 1010 – Introduction to Helping and Human Services
- HMNS 1080 – Health, Nutrition and the Young Child
- HMNS1210 – Field Experience and Seminar 1 – Child Development
- HMNS 2070 – Characteristics and Needs of Special Populations
- HMNS 2100 – Child Growth and Development Skills
- HMNS 2120 – Curriculum for the Young Child
- HMNS 2150 – Parent and Child Relations
- HMNS Elective

Early Childhood Education and Child Development Concentration Associate in Arts Degree in Education

- The Early Childhood Education and Child Development concentration is fully accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Child development and early childhood education majors are trained to work with families, parents, young children, and those who impact the development and well-being of children. Child Development Associates may be employed in a variety of educational and social settings, including child care facilities, Head Start programs, preschools, public schools, group homes, and residential care facilities.
- Child Development Associates are nationally recognized and have an ample number of bachelor's degree programs within close proximity to further their education beyond the associate degree.
- Three field placements provide students with critical opportunities for competency-based professional development.
- Students who have completed their CDA (Child Development Associate) are required to meet with a Human Services faculty advisor to apply for prior learning assessment credits toward their degree.
- Total General Education Requirement credits: 28; Total Major Requirement credits: 30

Rhode Island College

Institute for Early Childhood Teaching and Learning

Susan Zoll, PhD - ecinstitute@ric.edu

The institute has designed an innovative bachelor's degree program for working professionals teaching in early childhood settings. The program intentionally builds upon the professionals' current experiences as educators and offers coursework that incorporates practices designed to meet the needs of all learners in their classrooms.

- Program utilizes a cohort model in which students groups remain together throughout the program.
- Two distinct pathways:
 - moving individuals with associate's degrees (or their equivalent) to bachelor's degrees
 - assisting those with bachelor's degrees in other fields to earn a second bachelor's degree
- Students can choose a Birth–5 concentration or an Early Childhood Learning PK–2 certification
- Each student will be provided with an individualized academic plan to support the successful completion of their teacher education program.
- Program employs a hybrid model, combining face-to-face learning and flexible online content components.
- Students are also provided with academic and non-academic support to ensure their success.
- Students receive support in preparation for the PRAXIS/CORE exam.
- Through the T.E.A.C.H. Rhode Island ® program, generous scholarship opportunities are available for educators working 30+ hours weekly in early childhood settings (see T.E.A.C.H. R.I ® scholarship information).
- Practicum assignments and student teaching experience objectives are completed while students remain in their current classrooms and receive the guidance of mentors in the field.

T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships

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Manager of Early Childhood Initiatives at the Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children (RIAEYC), (401) 739-6100 x307.

- T.E.A.C.H. ® R.I. provides a generous scholarship, including tuition, books, and stipends, to qualifying early childhood educators currently working in the field.
- Applicants must be employed full time (30 hours per week or more) in a licensed early childhood program.
- To identify eligibility, educators and their programs should contact the coordinator listed above.