

Program Overview

Early Childhood Leadership (CGS) at Rhode Island College will prepare professionals to be innovative, culturally responsive, and compassionate leaders who advocate for children, families, and communities in Rhode Island and beyond by developing competence in pedagogical leadership, administrative leadership, and essential leadership skills that center on a culture of care, communication, and critical reflective practice.

Program / Learning Outcomes

Students completing the Early Childhood Leadership CGS will:

- ❖ develop intrapersonal and interpersonal leadership skills utilizing culturally responsive practices.
- ❖ develop pedagogical leadership knowledge and skills to facilitate effective community building strategies and advocacy to strengthen children and families.
- ❖ develop administrative leadership knowledge and skills to support high quality programs utilizing effective organizational systems.

Required Coursework

The required coursework consists of 5 courses (15 credits) in hybrid (online and in-person) modality.

- ❖ ECED 500: Foundations in Business Management in ECE (3 cr.)
- ❖ ECED 515: ECE Leadership and supervision (3 cr.)
- ❖ ECED 525: ECE Systems Thinking and Organizational Culture (3 cr.)
- ❖ ECED 535: ECE Internship and Community of Practice (3 cr.)
- ❖ ECED 545: Professional Development in Early Childhood Leadership (3 cr.)

"The Rhode Island College Master's Certificate in ECE Leadership program has been a transformative experience in my professional journey. The program strengthened my confidence as a leader while deepening my understanding of effective early childhood practices. Through reflection, collaboration, and practical application, this program has empowered me to lead with intention, advocate for high-quality early learning, and continuously strive for excellence in my work. I am grateful for the skills, insight, and professional growth I gained through this experience."



• Stephanie Ferreira, ECED Leadership student



Scan here for the ECE website to apply to the program

Contact Information

Dr. Nandita Gurjar
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**We are currently accepting applications for
spring 2027.**

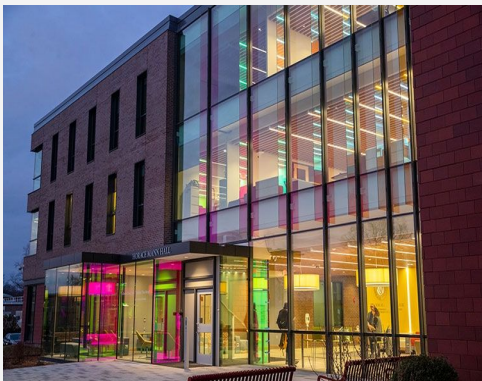
Admission Requirements

1. Completed application form accompanied by a \$50 nonrefundable fee. A fee waiver may be available. Please reach out to ngurjar@ric.edu
2. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate course work.
3. Resumé documenting all experience in early childhood education. Recommended minimum of 3 years of experience in early care and education.
4. Bachelor's degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in professional coursework.
5. Three candidate reference forms accompanied by letters of recommendation. If relevant, recommendations should include experience related to early childhood education, and/or related field.
6. Professional goals essay that describes candidate's commitment to the field of Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood leadership, advocacy, cultural awareness, collaboration, and lifelong learning.
7. Additional materials may be requested.

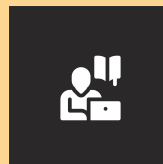


Program Foundations

- ❖ Our program utilizes the Whole Leadership Framework – empowering and equipping emerging and current ECE leaders with pedagogical, administrative, and essential leadership skills.
- ❖ We offer flexibility for working professionals with 15 credit hour hybrid (online and in-person) coursework.
- ❖ Our in-person classes are flexible based on student needs and held on selected Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00-7:50 p.m. We also offer 6 week summer asynchronous online classes to finish the certificate within one year.
- ❖ The program empowers ECE leaders with personalized mentoring support.
- ❖ The certificate credits are stackable toward a master's degree in Advanced Teaching and Learning.



Individualized
mentoring



Hybrid
(online and
in-person)



Stackable Credits
toward a Masters
Degree