

### Three UAA EC Programs

1. Occupational Endorsement Certificate (OEC) – 18 credits
2. Associate of Applied Sciences (AAS) – 60 Credits
3. Bachelor of Arts (BA) – 120 credits

# Early Childhood Education Fact Sheet

With a shortage of qualified Early Childhood (EC) educators across Alaska and the nation, UAA's programs meet the needs of *high demand* careers. The OEC is an easy entry to the university where students earn a workforce development certificate in infant and toddler development with only 18 credits. These credits lead into the AAS in Early Childhood Development (birth-age 8). The AAS then leads into the BA in Early Childhood Education as a 2 + 2 model. Both the OEC and the AAS qualify graduates for positions in child-care and other early education organizations. A BA with teacher licensure provides graduates with even more opportunities, including teaching in public schools PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grades and other leadership roles in the field of early care and learning.

The Early Childhood programs are meeting needs of today's workforce while using innovative teaching strategies for tomorrow.

### Highlights of Early Childhood Programs:

- **Pathways** – OEC > AAS > BA - Creates **multiple career pathways** for graduates to include positions in public schools, Early Head Start/Head Start Programs, military approved child-care facilities, tribally approved child-care systems, and early intervention programs such as Parents, Infants, and Children, the Infant Learning Program (ILP), and RurAL CAP.
- **Accreditation:** The AAS is nationally accredited by the **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** through spring 2025. The BA will seek accreditation through both NAEYC and CAEP.
- **Licensure** – UAA's program will be the **only Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade** initial licensure option in the State of Alaska.
- **Employment** - *100% of graduates who sought* employment in the Early Childhood field have been hired (past 7 years).
- **Early Literacy focus** – All of UAA EC programs have a strong emphasis in language and literacy development. The content is scaffolded with emphasis on development, foundations, theory, strategies, implementation, and assessment.
- **Field Experience** – All three programs emphasize real world practice with opportunities in childcare settings, public school settings, and community agencies including Head Start. Students who complete all three programs will have nearly **1000 hours of field experience**.
- **Delivery** - EC faculty have a strong commitment to serving the educational needs of our diverse student population with both **face-to-face and distance/hybrid** course options.
- **Diversity and Inclusion** – We take pride in our student population. In AY 2019-2020 the EC program was 57% non-white reflecting the larger Alaskan population.
- **Innovation and Learning** – Meeting needs for Alaska through Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Critical Thinking (21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning and Innovation 4C skills).

## Field Experiences

Course	Placement	Hours
EDEC A105: Introduction to Early Childhood	Birth-Age 8	10 –15
EDEC A107: Child Development and Learning	Birth – Age 12	10 –15
EDEC A206: Integrated Curriculum for Young Children	Head Start Preschool	30
EDEC A210: Guiding Young Children	Preschool/K-3 grade	10 –15
EDEC A241: Infant and Toddler Development	Infant or toddler	10 –15
EDEC A242: Culturally Responsive Family and Community Engagement	Community Setting	10 –15
EDEC A295: Early Childhood Practicum	Preschool/K-3 grade	150
EDEC A303: Young Children in Inclusive Settings	Preschool/K-3 grade	10 –15
EDEC A321: Reading, Language and Culture	Kindergarten or 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	15
EDEC A407: Observation and Documentation in Early Childhood	Preschool/K-3 grade	30
EDEC A495Y Student Teaching 1 (Literacy and STEM methods)	Preschool/K-3 grade	150
EDEC A495Z: Student Teaching 2 (includes four-week residency)	Preschool/K-3 grade	500+
Total		<b>945 -1000+ hours</b>

## Literacy and Language Emphasis

### Language & Literacy Development



EDEC A105: Introduction to Early Childhood  
EDEC A107: Child Development and Learning  
EDEC A241: Infant and Toddler Development  
EDEC A242: Culturally Responsive Family Engagement

### Language & Literacy Foundations



EDEC A320: Literacy Foundations  
EDEC A321: Reading, Language and Culture

### Language & Literacy Strategies & Implementation



EDEC A404: Literacy (Teaching Methods) for Young children  
EDEC A408: Literature for Young Children  
EDEC A495YZ Early Childhood Seminar (Literacy and STEM methods)  
EDEC A49YZ: Student teaching 1 and 2

- Communication & Language acquisition
- Literacy development
- Pre-literacy skills
- Family and cultural influences

- 5 components of reading
- Evidence-based theory & strategies
- Dual/Multi-Language Acquisition (ELL)

- Culturally responsive lesson planning
- Reflective teaching practices
- Responsible assessment
- Continuous improvement reading cycle