

Early Childhood Experiential Learning:

A program for assessing early childhood professionals

The Metropolitan State University Early Childhood Assessment Program, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and community agencies, provides assessments and educational pathways to enhance Minnesota's early childhood industry. The program offers accelerated access and placement in higher education so that the early childhood professionals can earn credentials needed for career advancement in less time.

What we do

- Assess the experiential learning of early childhood professionals for college credit.
- Collaborate with early childhood agencies to assess noncredit training in the community for college credit.
- Conduct workshops on the experiential learning assessment process and provide information on how to integrate higher education in professional development and as well as career ladder opportunities in the field of early childhood.

College Credits for Training Offered in the Community

Through Metropolitan State University's Early Childhood Assessment Program (ECAP), early childhood and school-age professionals can earn credit for learning they have gained outside the classroom, either through training in the community or through individualized learning experiences. These credits can be used to meet the Minnesota educational requirements for an assistant teacher or teacher working in licensed child care programs, the continuing education requirements of licensed teachers or a CDA credential, or toward the degree

requirements of two-year or four-year colleges. At Metropolitan State the credits can be used to meet: 1) General Education and Liberal Studies (GELS) Requirements including Goal V: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences; 2) Electives – most majors have room for about 20 elective credits; 3) Major Requirements if your major is related to early childhood. Participants do not need to be admitted to Metropolitan State if they are seeking four or fewer credits.

Training

Participants can earn credit at Metropolitan State University for the learning they gain through the following training programs. The procedures for verifying learning gained through these programs and the number of credits awarded, varies by program.

1. Resource for Child Caring Training

- Basic Health and Safety Consideration: 1 credit
- Basic Multicultural Activities for all Children: 1 credit
- Child Growth and Development: 1 credit
- Contracts and Policies for Family Child Care: 1/2 credit
- Legal and Insurance Issues for Family Child Care: 1 credit
- Marketing for Family Child Care Providers: 1/2 credit
- Money Management and Retirement Planning for Child Care Providers: 1/2 credit
- More than Letters – Literacy: 1 credit
- Planning Activities to Meet Children's Needs: 1 credit

- Record Keeping and Taxes for Family Child Care: 1 credit
- 2. **Other Training through the Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referral Network**
 - Infant Toddler Training Intensive (ITTI): up to 4 credits
 - Project Exceptional: up to 2 credits
 - Building Cultural Connections: 1 credit
 - Not By Chance: Early Childhood School Readiness: 1 credit (the credit applies to the Eager to Learn online and the 6-hour face-to-face training)
 - SEEDS of Emergent Literacy: up to 4 credits

Participants should contact the corresponding training organizations for more information about the training and training schedule. Training schedules can also be found at www.mnstreams.org

Cost

The tuition cost for credits earned through the Early Childhood Assessment Program, is \$25/credit, considerably less than the normal tuition rate. The Early Childhood Assessment Program is supported in part by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services to promote professional development, career pathways and access to higher education for Minnesota early childhood professionals.

Getting Started

To earn credit for training, 1) attend the training; 2) review the credit requirement for the training (available on our website at www.metrostate.edu/ecap); and 3) send the following to the Early Childhood Assessment Program Coordinator, Metropolitan State University, Psychology Department, Suite 101, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55108:

- a) A Quick Start Registration Form. Please complete Part A and the back of the form.

- b) The assignments and materials required for the specific training. These can be obtained from your training facilitator or on our Web site at www.metrostate.edu/ecap/community.html
- c) A check payable to Metropolitan State University for \$25 for each credit you expect to earn.

Important Grade and Transcript Information

After we receive all your documents, we will process and submit your registration materials Metropolitan State University registration and grades office. Please note that Metropolitan State University does not automatically mail grades or transcript to students. Once the grade has been submitted (usually at the end of the semester), it is the student's responsibility to request a transcript. If you need a copy of your grades or transcript, you may print it from the Web (if you are an admitted student) or call the Grades Coordinator's Office at 651-793-1223. Metropolitan State operates on a semester system. All paperwork must be received by the semester registration deadline in order for your grade/transcript to be available the end of that semester. The following timeline apply:

- Fall semester deadline to submit all your documents to ECAP is October 1st and the grade is available the end of December;
- Spring semester deadline to submit all your documents to ECAP is February 15th and the grade is available mid-May;
- Summer semester deadline to submit all your documents to ECAP is June 1st and the grade is available mid-August.

For more information regarding the requirements, please visit our website at www.metrostate.edu/ecap/community.html or call the Early Childhood Assessment Program at 651-999-5824 or email at ecap@metrostate.edu.