

**DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD,
EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES**

Student Outcome Assessment Plan
Early Childhood Development Program
(September, 2004)

Introduction

Throughout the time which a student spends in the degree plan in the Early Childhood Development Program, he/she will be expected to meet a number of outcomes that prove the student is progressing through a defined set of course and program competencies, culminating in a final two-semester practicum experience where theory and skills learned in previous coursework is applied to a “real world” early care and education program. At this time a student completes the program by providing a comprehensive portfolio of materials showing evidence of knowledge learned, skills developed, and training applied.

The following shows the sequence of “gateways” in which a student must pass from beginning of acceptance into the college until graduation. At each of these gateways, some level of skill is demonstrated by certain, defined activities, evidenced and measurable by the department. Each of these is described below.

Gateway #1: Application and Placement Testing

Upon application and acceptance into the college, a student is required to declare a major area of study. Upon this declaration, students are also required to take placement exams to determine skill levels in reading, writing, and math. While the program does not limit access to those with high level skills, it does require that students either show or become proficient in reading, writing, and math skills before moving into early childhood coursework.

This gateway requires that all early childhood development students score either **above** RDG 095 and ENG 090 before entering any early childhood development course. It is recommended that students also score into ENG 095 before attempting ECE courses. The department also recommends that student score beyond MAT 090 before moving on to ECE coursework. This set of requirements and recommendations is needed to assure that students have the skill levels to be successful in completing the extensive reading, writing, and critical thinking skills required to be successful in the Certificate and Associate degree plan. While students are completing these developmental courses, a minimum of two developmental early childhood courses will be offered to allow for exposure to content areas in early childhood development. These courses are developmental in nature and may not be used for elective credit in the degree plan.

Evidence needed to meet the requirements of this gateway:

Credit with a grade of “C” or better for all prerequisite coursework in RDG, ENG, and MAT or exemption through testing or prior credit that has been successfully transferred to BHCC from another accredited college.

Evidence certified by: Registrar’s office and Advising center.

Gateway #2: Completion of Coursework in Certificate Program

Once students have completed the coursework required to assure their success in college level reading and writing (and beginning math), they will move on to the completion of 24 credits required in the Certificate in Early Childhood Development Program. This set of courses requires several courses (18 credit hours) of ECE coursework, one college level writing course, and one introductory psychology course.

In the course of completion of the ECE courses, course competencies have been delineated to assure that students are progressing in their understanding of early childhood development principles and skills. To assure a complete set of evidence is available to show competency in these areas of study, the department has developed a set of generic assignments which are required by each instructor for each of

these 6 courses (ECE 101,102, 103, 104, 106, and 117). Students taking these courses will have a set of similar assignments to use as evidence of competency in the areas of study for each course and in a cumulative set of knowledge and skill levels from the whole. This evidence will be used to assure competency before moving on to the next level of development at gateway #3.

Evidence needed to meet the requirements of this gateway:

(1) An overall GPA of 2.0 or higher is required. Credit for each course with a grade of “C” or better in all coursework required in the Certificate Program in ECE, ENG, and PSY courses or exemption through prior credit that has been successfully transferred to BHCC from another accredited college. Student with grades lower than “C” must repeat the course to move forward in the program.

Evidence certified by: Registrar’s office and Advising Center.

(2) A collection of assignments completed and graded in the following courses which shows competency for ECD should be available to show progress as student move toward Gateway #3.

From ECE 101: Case study of child with guidance principles applied to a behavioral problem (course project)

From ECE 104: Course project showing knowledge and skill levels in curriculum use in ECD classrooms.

From ECE 106: Course project showing knowledge and skill levels in use of space, health, safety, and nutritional principles in ECD classrooms.

From ECE 117: Case analysis of child and his/her development showing evidence of understanding of techniques for observation and recording of behavior.

Evidence certified by: These assignments will be required to show competency before students are admitted to practicum experience during or after gateway #3. It is the students’ responsibility to store and have assignments available when completing requirements in advanced gateways. For those without such evidence, a written alternative will be provided to assure competency for advanced coursework.

Gateway #3: Completion of Coursework in General Education and Additional Professional Studies and Practice Application

Students will move on through the required general education coursework and additional professional studies courses until they have only two semesters left to complete the associate degree. At this time, they will apply for practicum experience using evidence from gateway #2 and application requirements for the practicum set by the department.

Evidence needed to meet the requirements of this gateway:

These include:

1. A 2.0 cumulative grade point average, including grades in general education courses and remaining professional studies courses which average no lower than 2.0.
2. A minimum of 30 hours completed in the A.S. degree program including ECE 101, 102, 103, 104, 106, 117, PSY 101, ENG 111, and ENG 112 with a grade of “C” or higher in each of these courses.
3. A negative T.B test and an acceptable CORI finding.
4. Presentation of evidence from gateway #2 requirements from ECE 101, 104, 106, and 117 assignments showing ability to complete coursework in practicum site.
5. Completion of all departmental procedures for practicum placement.

Evidence certified by: Department Chair and faculty assigned to supervise practicum course(s).

Gateway #4: Completion of Practice Experiences

Students will enroll in and complete the practicum experience and all requirements of the course, including a comprehensive portfolio of competencies showing all program competencies have been met.

Evidence certified by: A committee of faculty comprised of department chair, practicum instructor and one additional full time or adjunct faculty member to review portfolios and make recommendations for practicum completion with competency.