

## What can you do with a major in Early Childhood Care & Education?

**Campus(s) program is offered: Marietta, Paulding, Canton, and Online**

### **What are the most likely job titles one can expect to qualify for after completing this program?**

Infant, Toddler, or Preschool Teacher	GA Pre-K Teacher Assistant
Public School Paraprofessional	Family Child Care Owner/Operator
Child Care Center Owner	Child Care Center Director
Nanny	Family Support Specialist
Home Visitor	Early Literacy Specialist
Special Needs Consultant	

### **What do students express as the thing they enjoy the most about this program?**

Students express enjoying most the amount of hands-on learning available throughout the ECCE program. They enjoy putting into practice what they're learning to do in their coursework.

### **What is the least?**

They enjoy least the amount of hard work that goes into learning how to be an effective early childhood teacher, but they also express that the hard work is worth it.

### **What are some typical misconceptions about this program of study?**

Common misconceptions are that the job is baby-sitting, or day care, that a person doesn't need to know much to be able to do it well, or at all, that there isn't a lot to learn about a child's growth and development, and that the job of an early childhood teacher is an easy one.

### **What are some essential skills and abilities a student needs to have in order to be successful in program of study?**

- Curiosity about child development and learning
- Willingness to learn to:
  - observe, assess, document, and build meaningful curriculum
  - build family and community relationship
  - use developmentally effective approaches
- Physically active
- Confident
- Effective communication skills

### **What are typical skills and abilities that a student gains once he/she has completed the program of study?**

The ECCE graduates are critical thinkers who question their practices and change them based on their own experiences, collective wisdom, and a solid body of research-based evidence. They are early childhood teachers who PROVE IT:

- Promote child development and learning
- Respect families and children
- Observe, plan, implement, and assess learning

- Value and apply research
- Embrace diversity
- Intentionally teach
- Trust children

**Typical work activities/occupational functions:**

- Developing and implementing developmentally appropriate, healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging learning environments, materials, and experiences for young children.
- Facilitate learning in language and literacy, the arts – music, creative movement, dance, drama, and visual arts, mathematics, science, physical activity, physical education, health and safety, and social studies.
- Observing, documenting, and assessing children’s learning, and then planning for future learning.
- Working in partnership with children’s families and with other colleagues and community stakeholders.
- Applying research to classroom practices.
- Using appropriate technology.

**What additional training would you recommend for a student who wants to go to the next level in this field?**

A Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education and regular participation in national, regional, and state-wide professional development opportunities are recommended for further career advancement.

**Do any of the occupational courses transfer easily?** Yes.

**What are some common limitations, if any, in this program that students face?**

The cost of course textbooks can be prohibitive. The program is offered on three campuses, and so sometimes a student may have to travel to another campus for the class he/she wants.

**Are there any exams/certifications that a student needs to take after completing the courses? Are these exams/certifications offered on campus?** No.

**Possible employment settings:**

Child Care centers, Georgia Pre-K programs, Head Start programs, elementary schools, after-school programs, and pre-schools are a few of the places our graduates successfully seek employment. Some of our graduates become Family Child Care owners/operators, and child care center administrators.

**Names of potential employers:**

Sheltering Arms	Sunshine House	Bright Horizons
Primrose Schools	Cobb County Board of Education	Paulding County Board of Education

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