



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

THE CAREER

Students successfully completing the associate degree, diploma, or certificate programs have a wide variety of career options as childcare professionals. Early childhood professionals are concerned with the educational, emotional, and physical development of young children, and work closely to build relationships with the children, their families and communities. They are concerned with the learning environment including teaching using developmentally effective approaches, connecting with children and families, assessing to support young children, and continuously working to be well-prepared early childhood professionals.

Graduates may find employment in child care settings centers, preschools, Headstart programs, public schools, or private kindergartens. Working as a nanny, serving as a public school teacher assistant, or opening a private or family child care center are potential employment options. Positions may be as a teacher assistant, lead teacher, assistant director, director or owner/operator in a child care setting. Graduates may also find employment in various agencies or entities that serve children.

Earnings of childcare workers vary on the educational attainment of the employee and the type of establishment in which the employee works. In a recent year the average earnings ranged from \$7.86 to \$11.46 per hour with those for workers in the middle 50% of the childcare workforce ranging from \$6.66 to \$9.65.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Early Care & Education associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs offer a practical and theoretical approach to the study of childcare and the education of young children. The program prepares the student to provide quality care for young children and is designed for full-time students preparing for a career in early childhood development, currently employed individuals pursuing a career change, child care teachers and administrators who want to upgrade their skills, and parents who want to learn more about the growth and development of young children. The program provides a variety of learning experiences including theoretical and hands-on lab experiences. The Early Care & Education associate degree does not lead to teacher certification and is not part of the transfer block.

- > The Technical College of the Lowcountry is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all qualified applicants for admissions or employment without regard to race, gender, national origin, age, religion, marital status, veteran status, disability, or political affiliation or belief.

ADMISSIONS

Students applying to the Early Care & Education Associate degree program must supply the following documentation before registering for courses (except ECD 101):

- > An official copy of high school transcripts or Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED) transcripts must be of file with the TCL Admissions Office. A certificate of completion will not be accepted as a substitute for the high school diploma or GED.
- > All candidates must take the COMPASS/ASSET placement evaluation unless official college transcripts are filed with the TCL Admissions Office indicating a grade of "C" or better in ENG 101 English Composition I and MAT 110 College Algebra or MAT 120 Probability and Statistics.
- > All candidates must obtain a SLED criminal background check prior to registering for any courses with an ECD prefix, except ECD 101.
- > Students testing into any reading level coursework must complete the reading coursework in the first semester at TCL, except ECD 101.

ENROLL ▪ REGISTER ▪ ATTEND

1. Apply to the College and for Financial Aid.
2. Complete the COMPASS and/or TEAS placement assessments.
3. Call your academic advisor to make an appointment for advisement and to register.
4. Pay your tuition and fees. (*Verify financial aid.*)
5. Obtain all needed College IDs: Student ID, Vehicle Registration, and Blackboard ID. (*Get your books and course supplies.*)
6. Mark your calendar for the first day of class and plan to be there!

NOTE: SEE REQUIRED COURSES IN CATALOG.

Beaufort Campus ▪ 921 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC 29901 ▪ 843.525.8211

Hampton Campus ▪ H. Mungin Center ▪ 54 Tech Circle ▪ Varnville, SC 29944 ▪ 803.943.4262

New River Campus ▪ 100 Community College Dr. ▪ Bluffton, SC 29909 ▪ 843.470.6000

MCAS Beaufort Merritt Field ▪ Education Office ▪ 843.228.7494 | MCRD Parris Island ▪ Education Office ▪ 843.228.2659