

## **Child Development Degrees and Teaching Elementary School**

### Do you want to work with children while earning your elementary teaching credential?

A community college Child Development Associate Degree will help you meet the requirements to apply for a Child Development Permit through the office of Teacher Credentialing in order to get a job working with children and gain experience in a government funded children's program (Title V) that will pay higher salaries and benefits while you are going to school to complete your Bachelors Degree and teacher credentialing program.

### Do you want to take classes only, not work with children and get your elementary teaching credential as quickly as possible?

Decide which university you plan to transfer to and use our Rio Hondo transfer handout to determine the courses you can take at Rio Hondo in both Child Development and General Education that your university will accept along with the overall number of lower division credits they will accept (the units only are considered and not the specific courses) and then transfer to the university.

### Can you enter a teacher credentialing program with a Child Development Associate Degree only ?

No, teacher credentialing programs require students to have a Bachelors Degree.

### Why won't universities accept all of my community college Child Development units?

Community colleges only offer freshman (100 level) and sophomore (200 level) courses. The classes that universities do accept are considered introductory and background courses. Universities offer junior (300 level) and senior (400 level) courses in a particular field of study that are at a higher level and include more sophisticated information regarding theory and research. The community college course work that universities do not accept are considered more in depth applied vocational (basic training for a specific field) coursework.

### Can you enter a teacher credentialing program with a Child Development Bachelors Degree ?

Yes, in fact many Child Development Bachelors programs combine bachelors work with teacher credentialing work (for example, California State Universities, Los Angeles and Fullerton).

### Upon completion of your teaching credential program do you want to get a job teaching elementary school without returning to community college?

Often students who have no Child Development units or few Child Development units find it necessary to return to community college to earn those units to either secure employment raise their salaries or move up to a higher level position.

What are that advantages of earning an Associates and Bachelors level Liberal Studies/Arts Degree?

A Liberal Studies/Arts Degree provides more in depth knowledge of the content areas (English, Math, History, Science) that an elementary school teacher must pass on to their students. This in depth knowledge may assist students in passing the CBEST and CSET testing required to secure their credential. Courses taken in Liberal Studies at the community college level are more likely to transfer and be accepted by universities.

What are that advantages of earning an Associates and Bachelors level Child Development Degree?

The courses included in Child Development degree assist students in understanding the development of the children they will be teaching in all domains: physical, social, emotional, language and cognitive and tie that knowledge with the most effective techniques to facilitate learning. All Child Development courses also address partnerships with parents and diversity issues (i.e. culture, language, gender & abilities). Child Development students also pass their CBEST and CSET courses by being selective and thoughtful in their general education course selection.

Child Development Degrees are documented to be significantly related to success and satisfaction rates in the field of elementary education. Professionals with Child Development background have many opportunities beyond elementary education if they decide to change their career focus (i.e. business, communications, social work & medicine). See the Child Development Careers handout.