

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIPLOMA

Program Office: 403.320.3393 • humanservices@lethbridgecollege.ca

*Nurture the Future*

Deepen your knowledge and your influence on children's development with our two-year Early Childhood Education diploma program. With your diploma, you can work as a certified Level 3 Early Childhood Educator. Our program is approved for licensing in most provinces and territories and has been designed for flexibility to meet your needs.

Through a blend of theory and practical application, we'll prepare you with the knowledge, experience and perspectives you'll need to work with young children at any stage of development. You can arrange your practicum near you for hands-on learning. Develop a career fit for your nurturing personality with our ECE diploma.

## Your Investment

Program fees will vary. To view fee information, click here (<https://lethbridgecollege.ca/programs/>) and select your program.

## Graduation

Upon successful completion of all program requirements, students are awarded an Early Childhood Education diploma.

## ADMISSIONS

Courses for the Early Childhood Education diploma are available through online learning only. Students are accepted for the terms beginning Fall (September), Winter (January) or Spring (May). Students applying for this program must contact the ECE program to plan their program.

## General Admissions Requirements

All applicants must meet the general admission requirements for Lethbridge College programs, as indicated in the Admission section of this calendar.

Applicants are required to have successfully completed a one-year Early Childhood Education certificate or equivalent from a recognized college, in order to enter the Early Childhood Education diploma program. Transfer students with related credentials will be accepted into the program after being assessed on an individual basis to determine whether they are required to take bridging courses to meet diploma outcomes.

## CURRICULUM

(Available Online Learning Only)

| Course  | Title                       | Credits   |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Year 1</b>                                 |                             |           |
| See the Early Childhood Education Certificate |                             | 33        |
|   | <b>Credits</b>              | <b>33</b> |
| <b>Year 2</b>                                 |                             |           |
| ECE-2250                                      | Pedagogical Documentation   | 3         |
| ECE-2254                                      | Child, Family and Community | 3         |
| ECE-2255                                      | School-Aged Programming     | 3         |
| ECE-2256                                      | Pedagogical Leadership      | 3         |

|          |                                |           |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| ECE-2260 | Infant and Toddler Programming | 3         |
| ECE-2264 | Pre-School Programming         | 3         |
| ECE-2284 | Practicum III                  | 6         |
| ECE-2286 | Practicum IV                   | 6         |
|          | <b>Credits</b>                 | <b>30</b> |
|          | <b>Total Credits</b>           | <b>63</b> |

## Prior Learning Assessment

If you have experience working in this field of study, you may be eligible for Prior Learning Assessment (PLA). Please direct your inquiries to the ECE program.

## PRACTICUM

Students in the online diploma program are strongly encouraged to contact the Early Childhood Education Practicum Coordinator upon their admission to the program to inquire about the process for setting up practicum placements. This process can take 2-3 months and there are deadlines that must be adhered to. All students are held to the same deadlines and requirements and failure to meet those deadlines and/or requirements may result in a delay in being able to complete a practicum placement.

## Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) Pre-Placement Requirements

This program has a required Work-Integrated Learning Pre-Placement Requirements (WIL) component. The College dictates the legal terms and conditions governing the WIL.

Students must meet and maintain certain requirements to participate in the WIL setting as determined by programs, practice agencies and/or legislated by government bodies. These may include health (e.g. immunizations, screening tests, etc.), privacy and security (e.g. police information check, IT access, etc.), and OH&S requirements (e.g. CPR certification, Fire Safety, WHMIS, Mask Fit-testing, etc.).

Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) coverage - WIL placement agencies and employers usually require WCB coverage on behalf of the student. Students enrolled in post-secondary institutions in Alberta are deemed to be employees of the Province of Alberta and, as such, provided WCB coverage. In certain instances for students outside of Alberta, WCB coverage may not be provided (e.g. non-Alberta residents taking a course solely through distance learning with a WIL placement outside of Alberta). These students are advised to contact the program prior to application.

Students with disabilities who may require accommodations must schedule an appointment with Accessibility Services at Lethbridge College preferably upon acceptance to the program and no later than the Add/Drop deadline to identify potential impacts of their disabilities in the WIL setting. As part of this process, it may be necessary to collaborate with WIL supervisors to determine appropriate accommodations that do not compromise the health and safety of clients, essential placement requirements, or mandatory licensing processes. Failure to consult with Accessibility Services in a timely fashion may compromise the student's WIL placement and opportunities for success in the WIL setting.

In order to participate in a WIL, a student may be required to complete a Police Information Check or other type of Security Clearance to the satisfaction of Lethbridge College and the WIL organization. Completion of a WIL does not guarantee employment with a WIL organization. Many

disciplines are provincially or otherwise regulated (e.g. health professions under Alberta's Health Professions Act); such regulation is beyond Lethbridge College's control. Completion of a WIL and graduation from a certain program do not guarantee one's licensure or admission into a regulatory body. Prospective students are encouraged to consult with a representative of the relevant regulatory body if they have concerns.

WIL sites may include Lethbridge, surrounding rural communities, and may extend beyond these boundaries depending on WIL site availability and approvals. WIL's may include day, evening, and/or weekend schedules. Students will be expected to travel to assigned sites and will be responsible for arranging travel and any associated costs.

## **TRANSFERS**

### **Athabasca University**

Graduates of Lethbridge College's Early Childhood Education diploma are eligible to receive up to 60 credits towards the Bachelor of Professional Arts (Human Services) at Athabasca University. Students should consult Academic Advising at Athabasca University or visit their website (<https://athabascau.ca/registrar/forms/tcas/>) for more information.

### **MacEwan University**

Graduates of Lethbridge College's Early Childhood Education diploma are eligible to receive up to 60 credits towards a Bachelor of Early Childhood and Curriculum Studies at MacEwan University. Students should contact a MacEwan University Academic Advisor for further information.

### **University of Alberta**

Graduates of Lethbridge College's Early Childhood Education diploma are eligible to receive up to 30 credits towards the Bachelor of Education (Elementary) at the University of Alberta. For more information, please contact an Academic Advisor at the University of Alberta.

## **CAREERS**

When you graduate, your in-demand skills will open up opportunities in:

- Before and After School Programs
- Child Care Centres
- Day Homes
- Early Learning Programs
- Family Group Care Programs
- Kindergartens
- Out-of-school Care Programs
- Parenting Centres
- Preschool Programs
- Recreational Facilities