

Questions to Ask an Advisor

The following is a list of questions that you, as a student or seeking to be a student, can ask of your local college. These questions will help guide you through a conversation with your Early Childhood Education advisor and are meant to be a resource; not all questions may apply to your situation.

Getting Started

1. Are you an ECE or Education programs advisor? If no, how do I locate/contact this person? If yes, can I schedule a phone or in-person appointment to ask some questions before I jump into the admissions process?
2. How do I apply for admissions to the college, is there an admissions fee? If there is an admissions fee, is there a waiver or grant available to cover the cost?
3. Do I need a student ID? When and how do I get one? Is there a cost?
4. How can I afford to pay for college and materials needed for my classes?

Funding

1. What funding options are available? How do I apply for scholarships or grants? When do I apply for these? What do these cover?
2. What is FAFSA and WASFA? Do I need to apply for either of these?

Early Learning Planning

1. What Early Childhood Education certificate and degree programs are available at this college?
2. Do you have the certificate I need for my job or for my future goals?
3. What career opportunities do I have when I graduate from this program?
4. Which certificate or degree is right for me? (This should be based off the student's current position and where the student wants to go.)
5. Is there an assessment test that is required for the certificate or degree I am seeking, before I can register for classes?
6. Do any of the courses I need for my certificate or degree have a prerequisite course that is required?
7. I need an education plan for my employer, how can I obtain one to provide to them?
8. How long will it take me to complete my desired education goal?
9. Are there any expectations during the day when I may be working?
10. If I have other credits, will you accept them? Is there a cost?
11. Is there anything else I need to know to be successful in this program? (For example – registration process, requirements to complete to maintain financial aid, orientation.)
12. Can I do this? How much time will I have to give, will I be able to keep up, do I need to have prior experience and knowledge?



Delivery Methods

1. What options do I have for classes when I need them? (evenings? Weekends?) Will I be able to complete my education with the time I have available?
2. How does online learning work? How does hybrid learning work? What is the difference between these options and a face-to-face class?
3. When are face-to-face or hybrid classes offered? Are there night and weekend classes?
4. If I need help in my classes, is there tutoring available? Whom do I ask? Is there a cost?
5. English is not my first language. What services or classes are available for me (interpreters, tutoring, etc.)?

Other

1. Can I talk to a current student in the program to find out what it is like?
2. Do I need to buy a parking pass? If so, are there waivers or grants that can help cover the cost? Where do I go to get a parking pass? How do I obtain the funding to cover the cost?

Student Responsibilities

1. What happens if I fall behind in a class or cannot complete a class?
2. What if one quarter I fall below a 2.0 but my overall GPA is a 2.0?
3. At this time, I'm not sure if I want to continue my education after this certificate or degree. If I decide to do so a few years from now, will my degree and credits be transferable towards another program?
4. If I do not finish my program at this college, can I finish it at another college?

Student Supports

1. Do you have on-site child care or transportation supports? Is there any funding to help me?
2. What kind of resources are available on campus to assist me through the college experience? (lending library, food bank, emergency fund, tech support, computer lab, library hours, food pantry)
3. What other funds are available that I can access to help with purchasing student supplies, transportation, or other emergency fund needs.
4. Is there a way that any of my prior experience or credentials may help count for credit through a prior learning assessment? (example: CDA or prior experience)