

Washington State Stackable Certificates

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Statewide Credentials

In Washington, early learning professionals who want to further their education have a clear path to follow: Colleges across the state offer common courses, course titles, course numbers, course descriptions and student outcomes. All courses are aligned with the Washington State Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals. They also allow students to earn “stackable” certificates: The courses that students are required to take will build on one another in a sequential manner and deepen levels of applied learning along the way.

1

The Initial Certificate (12 credits): Students can earn this certificate as the starting point of their careers or to continue their professional development. The certificate focuses on competencies comparable to those of the Child Development Associate (CDA). This provides the foundation for the ECE State Certificate and associate degree. Courses include a 5-credit Introduction to Early Childhood Education; a 5-credit Health, Safety and Nutrition course, and a 2-credit practicum to apply learning.

2

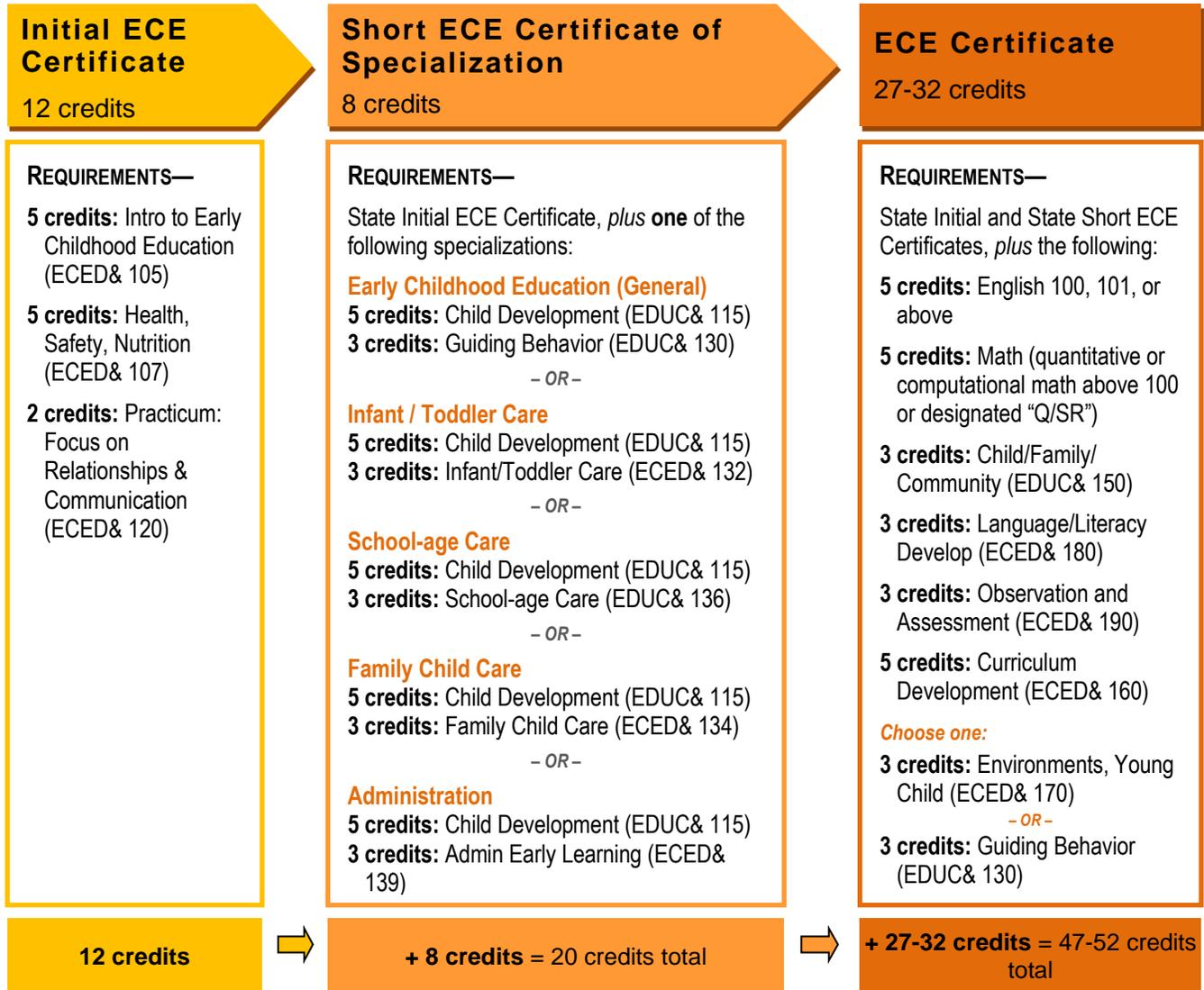
The ECE Short Certificate (8 credits): This certificate builds on the Initial Certificate (for a total of 20 credits). At this point, professionals can choose one of five specializations: ECE general, infant-toddler care, school-age care, family child care, and ECE administration. For each specialization, students must take a 5-credit Child Development course, plus a course aligned with the specific specialization.

3

The ECE State Certificate (27-32 credits): This final “stackable certificate” requires college-level math and English as a foundation for the next step: an associate degree in ECE. In addition to these general education requirements, the courses that students must take include Language and Literacy Development; Observation and Assessment; Child, Family and Community; Guiding Behavior; Environments for Young Children; and Curriculum Development. With all three certificates, the total number of credits earned by the student is 47-52. The colleges vary in the number of required credits for some classes. A class at one college may be 3 credits, while at another the same course is 5 credits.

The diagram (below) summarizes the three certificates and required coursework. Contact your local community or technical college for details about course offerings. **(For a list of colleges, see page 3.)**

WASHINGTON STATE STACKABLE CERTIFICATES



Where can I earn stackable certificates?

The following community and technical colleges offer the courses required for the state initial certificate. This list is current as of September 18th, 2018. Please visit <https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/grants/early-achievers-grant-program-contacts.aspx> for the most up-to-date list. For more information, contact the person listed or your local college.

Bates Technical College

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Everett Community College

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Bellevue College

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Grays Harbor College

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Big Bend Community College

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Green River College

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Centralia College

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Highline College

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Clark College

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Lake Washington Institute of Technology

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Columbia Basin College

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Lower Columbia College

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Edmonds Community College

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North Seattle College

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Olympic College

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Peninsula College

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Renton Technical College

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Seattle Central College

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Skagit Valley College

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South Puget Sound Community College

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Spokane Falls Community College

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Tacoma Community College

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Walla Walla Community College

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Wenatchee Valley College

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Whatcom Community College

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