



National Association for the Education of Young Children
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Programs at Three Colleges Earn NAEYC Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation; Programs at Twelve Colleges Renew Accreditation

National program sets standard of excellence in early childhood teacher education

WASHINGTON—The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Commission on Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation is pleased to announce that it has granted accreditation to associate degree programs at fifteen institutions of higher education. Twelve of these institutions have programs that have earned renewed accreditation after a seven-year cycle.

This round of accreditation decisions brings the total number of institutions with accredited programs to 159 in 30 states since the accreditation system was launched in 2006. To date, 92% of programs chose to apply for renewed accreditation at the end of their initial accreditation term, signaling the value and rewards of accreditation. There are over 100 additional associate degree programs currently engaged in a self-study process and working toward accreditation.

“These programs have demonstrated their commitment to continuous quality improvement, transparency, and public accountability at a critical time when increased attention is being placed on the quality of the early childhood education professional pipeline,” said Marica Cox Mitchell, Director of Higher Education Accreditation and Program Support at NAEYC. “This is a rigorous competency-based accreditation model. It requires programs to provide evidence that their students possess the nationally identified competencies needed to positively influence the development and learning of young children, birth through age eight. These programs should also be applauded for meeting the accreditation standards in a way that is innovative and responsive to their unique contexts.”

The accreditation system was established to raise the quality of early childhood teacher education, and in turn raise the quality of early education programs serving young children. Accredited associate degree programs play a critical role in preparing a competent and diverse pool of early childhood professionals that can support increasing demands for more professionals with specialized higher education degrees and credentials.

The newly accredited associate degree programs are:

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, Hudson, N.C.
A.A.S. Early Childhood Education

Central Arizona College, Coolidge, Ariz.
A.A.S. Early Childhood Education/Preschool

San Jacinto College – Central Campus, Pasadena, Texas
A.A.S. Child Development/Early Childhood Education

The associate degree programs whose accreditation has been renewed are:

Blue Ridge Community College, Flat Rock, N.C.

A.A.S. Early Childhood Education

A.A.S. School-Age Education (This program was recently added by this institution for review, and focuses on preparing school-age education professionals working primarily with young children birth through age eight.)

Cape Cod Community College, West Barnstable, Mass.

A.S. Early Childhood Education Career Option

A.S. Early Childhood Education Transfer Option

Central Carolina Technical College, Sumter, S.C.

A.A.S. Major in Early Care and Education

Forsyth Technical Community College, Winston-Salem, N.C.

A.A.S. Early Childhood Education

Gaston College, Dallas, N.C.

A.A.S. Early Childhood Education

Guilford Technical Community College, Jamestown, N.C.

A.A.S. Early Childhood Education

Harold Washington College, Chicago, Ill.

A.A.S. Child Development, Pre-school Education

Kennedy-King College, Chicago, Ill.

A.A.S. Child Development, Preschool Option

Midlands Technical College, Columbia, S.C.

A.A.S. Early Care and Education

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, Orangeburg, S.C.

A.P.S. Early Care and Education

Richard J. Daley College, Chicago, Ill.

A.A.S. Child Development – Preschool Education

Vance-Granville Community College, Henderson, N.C.

A.A.S. Early Childhood Associate

For more information including a listing of all accredited programs, visit the NAEYC Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation system [website](#).

Founded in 1926, the National Association for the Education of Young Children is the largest and most influential advocate for high-quality early care and education in the United States. The NAEYC Commission on Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation is a fully autonomous body established by the NAEYC Governing Board to ensure the equity, integrity, and accountability of the associate degree accreditation system.

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