



North Idaho College

1000 West Garden Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Child Development

Academic Certificate in Child Development

The Academic Certificate in Child Development is designed to prepare students to work in a variety of early care and education settings at an entry level with children from infancy through age eight. The certificate curriculum supports the development of qualifications required to work in child development while concurrently undertaking the academic core required for their two-year Associate Degree. The curriculum consists of a core of 21 credit hours directly related to early childhood education. The certificate also allows students to apply earned credits toward an AS in Child Development.

Goals for the Academic Certificate in Child Development:

1. PROMOTING CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

Students use their understanding of child development – including young children's unique characteristics and needs, and the multiple interacting influences on children's development and learning – to create environments that are healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging for each child.

2. BUILDING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Students articulate the complex characteristics of children's families and communities and use this understanding to create respectful, reciprocal relationships that support families, and to engage families in their children's development and learning.

3. OBSERVING, DOCUMENTING, AND ASSESSING TO SUPPORT YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Students learn techniques for understanding and effectively guiding the behavior of young children, both typically and atypically developing. Included are skills for managing classroom situations, encouraging conflict resolution, using praise effectively, preventing problems, promoting self-esteem, and setting individualized goals for young children in a classroom setting.

4. USING DEVELOPMENTALLY EFFECTIVE APPROACHES

Students implement a wide array of developmentally appropriate approaches, instructional strategies, and tools to connect with children from birth to age 8 and their families in a variety of early childhood settings.

5. USING CONTENT KNOWLEDGE TO BUILD MEANINGFUL CURRICULUM

Students apply their knowledge of developmental domains and disciplines to design, implement, and evaluate meaningful, challenging curriculum that promotes comprehensive developmental and learning outcomes for each child.

6. BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL

Students are collaborative learners who continuously demonstrate knowledgeable, reflective and critical perspectives of their work, make informed decisions that integrate knowledge from a variety of sources, employ ethical guidelines, and advocate for sound educational practices and policies.

7. EARLY CHILDHOOD FIELD EXPERIENCES

Students engage in field experiences and clinical practice to develop the knowledge, skills and professional dispositions necessary to promote the development and learning of young children in a variety of early childhood settings and with multiple age groups.

Academic Certificate in Child Development Course Sequence:

<u>Course No. Title</u>	<u>(Credits)</u>
• ENGL 101 – or sufficient placement score	3
• CHD 110 – Early Childhood Health, Safety & Nutrition	3
• CHD 134 – Infancy through Middle Childhood	3
• CHD 150 – Building Professional Partnerships	3
• CHD 171 (<i>formerly CHD 115</i>) – Early Childhood Curriculum	3
• CHD 254 – Child Guidance Theory (Spring Semester only)	3
• CHD 298-A – Early Childhood Practicum	3

Program Total 21 credits

Upon completion of this Academic Certificate’s requirements, you must make official application for Graduation from the Certificate with the NIC Registrar’s Office. Students can find the Application for Graduation under the Academic Profile of the Student menu or online on the Registrar’s Office home website.

Contact Lesley Schoch (ljschoch@nic.edu or (208) 769-5909) or Kathleen Miller Green (kmgreen@nic.edu or (208) 665-4527), NIC Child Development Instructors for more information about the Academic Certificate in Child Development.