

BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR THEIR FUTURE—AND YOURS

Professional Certificate in Early Childhood Education Associate Teacher



Start your journey toward becoming an early childhood educator with a certificate that meets the foundational requirements for the California Associate Teacher Permit. This fully online program combines practical coursework with 150 hours of hands-on experience, so you can support young children's growth in real-world settings.

This program aligns with California CTC teaching standards and helps you build the skills and confidence to create inclusive, enriching environments for children from birth through age eight. You'll explore culturally responsive teaching, developmentally appropriate curriculum, and essential health and safety practices.

Whether you're new to the field or looking to deepen your impact in early childhood education, this certificate offers a practical, flexible pathway—one that's rooted in care, equity, and professional readiness.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Understand how young children grow, learn, and develop

Create inclusive, culturally responsive learning environments

Design developmentally appropriate activities and curriculum

Build strong partnerships with families and communities

Promote health, safety, and wellness in early education settings

 **TOTAL UNITS**
18

 **TUITION**
\$1,580

 **COMPLETION TIME**
12 months

 **FORMAT**
Online



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extension.ucr.edu/advisors

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BENEFITS OF EARNING A CERTIFICATE

There are several reasons why you might be considering continuing your studies. An upgraded education section on your resume can open the door to a new career, or, if you're already working, lead to a promotion and a higher salary. While you're working, going back to school is an excellent way to stay current in rapidly changing fields, or, if you've been away from the workforce for a while, to quickly get caught up in the latest trends, concepts, and advances.

While there are as many paths to follow, as there are reasons to follow them when approaching continuing education, there is enormous value in terms of time, financial investment, and personal flexibility while gaining practical training from working professionals in your industry that extends beyond the theory of the classroom and into the real world.

KEY BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- UC quality curriculum
- Professional endorsements
- Schedule flexibility
- Variety of courses and programs
- Instruction from professional leaders in the industry
- Offered in both English and Spanish

PAY AS YOU GO



Pay per individual course as you register.

COURSE TUITION RANGE
\$395 PER 4.5 UNIT COURSE

*Learn more about [tuition assistance](#).

CAREER INFORMATION



IN-DEMAND FIELD

Jobs are projected to grow at a rate of 3% over the next 5 years.



STRONG EARNING POTENTIAL

Median Salary **\$37,120**



VARIETY OF JOBS TO CHOOSE FROM

- Child Development Teacher
- Early Childhood Teacher
- Group Teacher
- Infant Teacher
- Preschool Teacher



SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

- Instructing
- Learning Strategies
- Critical Thinking
- Social Perceptiveness



REALITY CHECK. WHAT YOU WILL DO ON THE JOB.

- Establish and enforce rules for behavior and procedures for maintaining order
- Adapt teaching methods and instructional materials to meet students' varying needs and interests
- Provide a variety of materials and resources for children to explore, manipulate, and use, both in learning activities and in imaginative play



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STUDY PLAN

Our certificate programs are designed to be flexible, allowing you the option to take just a few courses or earn the complete certificate. If choosing to complete the certificate, we recommend you get the most out of your experience by following the suggested completion path below.

Required Courses		UNITS
Introduction to Early Childhood Studies: Child Growth and Development	EDUC X85.A	4.5
The Role of Home, School and Community in Early Childhood Education	EDUC X85.B	4.5
Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum in Early Childhood Education	EDUC X85.C	4.5
Health, Safety, and Nutrition in Early Childhood Education	EDUC X85.D	4.5

ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR NEXT STEP?

Schedule an appointment with an [Advisor](#) to get started. extension.ucr.edu/advisors

