

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Act (ECACE) program  
**Western Illinois University**  
**Early Childhood Education B.S.**

The information below was provided by Western Illinois University on 10/21/2022.

[See information flyers at the end of this document](#)

**Institution Name:** Western Illinois University

**Degree Name:** Early Childhood Education B.S.

**Does the degree lead to a Professional Educator License (PEL)?**

Within our program, students have the option to choose between the PEL with the Early Childhood Special Education Approval Letter, or the non-licensure route.

**Credentials or other qualifications that can be attained by completing the bachelor degree:**

Director's Credential Level 1 or Developmental Therapist Credential through the non-licensure route. We also offer the Gateways Level V Early Childhood Credential. In addition, we are a testing site for the PLA assessment in which participants can gain their Gateways Level 2 credential.

**Total credits required to earn the bachelor degree:** 120 Credit Hours

**Can the bachelor degree be completed 100% online? If not, please note any exceptions.**

The early childhood degree pathway can be completed 100% online with options for in-person and Zoom support. Some classes require Zoom sessions; however, they are offered in the evenings so that working childcare professionals can attend.

Students are required to student teach for the PEL option but can do so in their current place of employment if children within the early childhood range are being served.

**Is there an option to complete the bachelor degree in person on your campus?**

Traditional and Professional track students are also allowed to attend in-person courses available in the evenings if they would like. Not all classes are offered in person but we do offer approximately 50% of them in-person on campus based on feedback from students.

**If attending full-time, how many semesters are needed to complete the bachelor degree?**

From the associate's degree, the professional track is designed to be 6 semesters including summers with the track fluctuating between 9 and 12 credit hours depending on the semester. The traditional program would be approximately 6 semesters as well. For professional track students, there are a variety of prior learned credit options that could possibly reduce the total degree completion time or lessen the courses needed each semester.

**Is part-time attendance possible?** Yes

**Which semester(s) can the bachelor program be started?**

The bachelor degree program can be started at any time that is a natural semester start. In special circumstances we can start students during the second 8-weeks of a semester but that is not ideal.

**How are courses offered (i.e. full-term, 8-week sessions, summer options, etc.)?**

Courses are mostly offered in 8-week sessions but there are a couple of 16-week sessions for courses such as Mathematics that tend to require more support and guidance. There are also some 4-week summer courses.

**Please respond Yes or No to the following. Additional comments may be offered.**

	Yes or No
For students entering the university with the BHC AAS and documented Gateways Credential Level 4, will junior level status in an early childhood degree program be granted?	Yes
Will all courses completed successfully in the AAS degree program be counted toward bachelor degree completion?	Yes
For students who successfully complete BHC's AAS degree, will the university require any courses to be repeated in order for them to be counted toward the bachelor degree?	No
For students entering the university with the BHC AAS and documented Gateways Credential Level 4, will they be required to take only the same total number of credits taken by the program's native students? <i>We realize that additional coursework may be required if a student is seeking to add one or more endorsements to the base degree.</i>	Yes
<b>WIU is also providing Spanish Bilingual supports and mentoring as well as Spanish Bilingual COPs (community of practice) to earn Gateways Level 2 for those that have not yet earned that level of Gateways credential.</b>	

For more information about this degree, contact:

Dr. Lindsay Meeker  
Director of Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood Education  
Western Illinois University  
[lc-dennison@wiu.edu](mailto:lc-dennison@wiu.edu)  
Phone: 563-209-8448

**See information flyers below**

This information resource is provided as a service for Black Hawk College students. Students are responsible for confirming all guide contents. 10/21/2022

**WIU**

# PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

**IN EARLY CHILDHOOD**

*Bachelor of Science  
in Early Childhood*

*Spanish Bilingual  
Gateways Level 2  
COP - offered  
FREE*

*Meeting students  
where they are!*

- 6 semesters
- Classes offered online and in-person
- Licensure - PEL
- Advanced placement credit for applicable experience

- Prep experiences for Early Childhood pathway
- Spanish Bilingual instructor and mentor support
- Eligible to take PLA assessment upon completion

- All courses available online
- Evening and weekend help available
- Designated mentors - including Spanish support
- Tech assistance and test study groups available
- Small class sizes
- Math and writing tutoring available

CONTACT LINDSAY MEEKER AT  
LC-DENNISON@WIU.EDU OR 563-209-8448

# Western Illinois University Professional Pathways in Early Childhood

**CONTACT: DR. LINDSAY MEEKER, DIRECTOR FOR CENTER FOR BEST PRACTICES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**  
**563-209-8448 (mobile); 309-762-9481, ext. 62301**  
**lc-dennison@wiu.edu; @linsmeeker**

**Join Us This  
Spring!**

## Bachelors of Science in Early Childhood...

- 6 semesters from AAS- summer semesters offered (accepting AA as well in full as long as ISBE needs are met)
- Classes offered online (mostly asynchronous) and In-Person QC Campus for Selected Courses in the evenings
- Practicums and Student Teaching in the Workplace: access to lab site experiences through the University
- Non-licensure -Director Credential Level 1, and Developmental Therapist Credential
- Licensure -PEL (w/ECSE Approval -
- Early Childhood Special Education with Gateways IT Credential Level 5 or PEL
- Currently working on integrating ESL/Bilingual endorsement with only 2 additional courses
- Advanced placement credit for applicable experience in the field... Let's take a look at how many credits you might be able to earn! We are also a pilot program for the PLA Assessment, and we offer 6 credit hours for the CDA!

## Spanish Bilingual Gateways Level 2 COP...Free

- Spanish Bilingual Gateways Modules up to Level 2
- Prep experiences for the early childhood degree pathway
- Spanish Bilingual instructor and Mentor Support
- Eligible to take the PLA Assessment upon Completion

## Meeting Students Where They Are...Lets Do this!

- All courses available without coming to campus - offered asynchronous or with zoom options in the evening. Some Quad Cities courses available with evening in-person options.
- 6 semesters from associates for most students - AAS accepted as full as defined by ECACE - All associates accepted as full transfers
- Evening and Weekend help sessions offered Online and In-person
- Designated Mentors - Including Spanish support
- Tech Assistance and Content Test Study Groups
- Saturday Community of Practice on Early Childhood Hot Topics (optional)
- Small class sizes of approximately 10-25 students depending on the course
- Math and Writing tutor centers available

Scan to get started!!!

