

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Act (ECACE) program  
**Northern Illinois University**  
**B.S. in Human Development and Family Sciences – child development emphasis**

The information below was provided by Northern Illinois University on 11/2/2022.

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

Institution Name: **Northern Illinois University**

Degree Name: **B.S. Human Development and Family Sciences - Child Development Emphasis**

**We offer 3 areas of study: Parent-Infant Specialist, Child Life Specialist, and Leadership Studies.**

**Students chose an area of study they are interested in pursuing.**

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

**This degree is a non-licensure option. NIU does offer a PEL option through the College of Education.**

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

- **Gateways to Opportunity Level V - Early Childhood Credential**
- **Gateways to Opportunity Level V - Infant Toddler Credential – In the parent/infant area of study**
- **Gateways to Opportunity Level II – Director Credential – In the leadership studies area of study**
- **Illinois Developmental Therapist Credential – In the parent/infant area of study**
- **Coursework in the Child Life area of study is aligned to coursework requirements set forth by the Association of Child Life Professionals to sit for the Child Life certification exam**

Total credits required to earn the bachelor degree:

**120 hours total. Minimum GPA would be 2.0. After the first semester, student would have to be at 2.4 to remain in the program.**

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

**Students with an A.A.S. degree can complete their degree 100% online. One thing to note, the A.A.S. degree may not cover some general education courses that are required for the NIU bachelor program and may need to be taken in person to complete. They can be taken at NIU or at their community college. Consult a BHC or NIU advisor to assist with course selection.**

**Students with an A.A. or A.S. degree or 60+ credits, our program is a hybrid combination of in-person classes and online.**

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

**Yes, with our hybrid model, students can complete the program in person and take classes online.**

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

**Depending on the area of study a student chooses, there are one-year and two-year plans for students.**

Is part-time attendance possible?

**Yes, students have the option to complete their program in one or two years. Two-year plans have fewer classes per semester.**

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

**A student can begin their bachelor program in any semester.**

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

**Courses are a combination of full-term, 8-week sessions, and summer options.**

**Please respond Yes or No to the following. Additional comments may be Feel free to add comments.**

	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 – Courses that transfer to our program will count towards the bachelor degree completion
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 – However, students may need to take general education courses not required for their A.A.S. degree but are required for the NIU bachelor degree
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

**For more information, contact:**

Magaly Mleczo, M.S. – Early Education Mentor – [mrojas2@niu.edu](mailto:mrojas2@niu.edu)

Melissa Clucas Walter, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor – [mcwalter@niu.edu](mailto:mcwalter@niu.edu)

**Also visit:**

<https://www.niu.edu/childcare-workforce/index.shtml>

<https://www.chhs.niu.edu/facs/programs/human-development/bachelor-degree/index.shtml>

**See flyer below**

Take the next step to earning your bachelor's degree in  
Human Development and Family Sciences –  
**Child Development emphasis.**

Northern Illinois University

# Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Program



Advance your career teaching infants and young children and earn your Gateways Early Childhood Education Level 5 credential.

It's a perfect fit for early childhood teachers, teachers' aides, child care directors, and other professionals serving families and young children.

If you are a current or former early education professional with an Associate of Applied Science degree, you may qualify for free tuition through NIU's Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Program.



[niu.edu/childcare-workforce](https://niu.edu/childcare-workforce)

For more information,  
contact Magaly Mleczo at  
[mrojas2@niu.edu](mailto:mrojas2@niu.edu).



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**School of Family and Consumer Sciences**

*College of Health and Human Sciences*

# Requirements

## Major courses to be completed at NIU (21)

- HDFS 384 Asian American Families (3)  
or HDFS 488 Working with Ethnically Diverse Children and Families in the U.S. (3)
- HDFS 399 Professional Orientation: Issue and Trends in Working with Young Children and their Families (3)
- HDFS 432 Theories of Child Development (3)
- HDFS 482 Child Abuse and Neglect (3)
- HDFS 490 Practicum in Child Development and Family Center (9)

## One of the following areas of study (9-18):

### Parent/Infant Specialist (9):

#### Leads to Gateways to Opportunity Infant Toddler Credential Level 5.

- HDFS 437 Parent-Child Interaction (3)
- HDFS439 Infant Development in the Family: Typical and Atypical (3)
- HDFS 441 Infant and Child Mental Health and Resiliency (3)

### Child Life Specialist (18):

- HDFS 433 Introduction to Child Life Theory and Practice (3)
- HDFS 440 Therapeutic Play (3)
- HSCI 460 Research in Health and Human Sciences (3)
- PHHE 410 Coping with Death, Dying, and Loss (3)
- HDFS 439 Infant Development in the Family: Typical and Atypical (3)
- Elective (EPS 307 or HSCI 318 or NUTR 405 or HDFS 393)

### Leadership Studies (9):

#### Leads to Gateways to Opportunity Director Credential Level 2.

- HDFS 434 Administration and Supervision of Quality Programs for Young Children from Diverse Backgrounds (3)
- HDFS 438 Parent Education (3)
- Elective (HDFS 483 or HDFS 445 or HDFS 494 or NUTR 405)

**Note: Child development majors beyond 45 post-secondary semester hours must maintain a 2.40 NIU GPA. Child development majors also must obtain a grade of C or better in certain courses.**



**Northern Illinois University**

## Major courses generally available through community college (42):

- ENGL 203 Rhetoric and Composition II (3)
- BIOS 103 General Biology (3)  
or BIOS 109 Human Biology (3)
- HDFS 230 Child Development (3)
- HDFS 231 An Observational Approach to the Study of Young Children (3)
- HDFS 280 Human Development, the Family, and Society (3)
- HDFS 284 Introduction to Family Relationships (3)
- HDFS 330/330A Principles of Guiding Young Children (4)
- HDFS 331/331A Inclusive Program Planning for Infants, Toddlers and Their Parents (4)
- HDFS 332/332A Inclusive Program Planning for Children 3-8 Years of Age and Their Parents (4)
- PSYC 102 Introduction to Psychology (3)
- SOCI 170 Introduction to Sociology (3)
- STAT 100 Basic Statistics (3)
- One of the following: ENGL 350, HSCI 350, MATH 155, MATH 201, MATH 210, MATH 211, MATH 229, PHIL 105, PSYC 305.

## Other general education courses required (can be taken at NIU or the community college) (30):

- ENGL 103 Rhetoric and Composition I (3)
- COMS 100 Fundamentals of Oral Communication (3)
- Quantitative Literacy (3)
- Knowledge Domain Courses (21)

There is a required minimum of 21 semester hours in the three general education knowledge domains. The three general education knowledge domains are areas of human endeavor (creativity and critical analysis; nature and technology; society and culture).

### Proficiency credits (up to 30 credits)

Students who are human development and family science professionals in the incumbent workforce and students graduating from related Associate of Applied Science degree programs may receive credit specific to their discipline and prior learning experiences up to 30 credit hours. These are determined on an individual basis, so please speak with an NIU academic advisor for details.

### University graduation and general education requirements

All NIU students must meet university graduation and general education (GE) requirements as listed in the NIU undergraduate catalog. You may have some requirements already met when you are admitted to NIU. All students in this program are required to complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of coursework through NIU. You'll work with an advisor to identify which courses you will need and develop a plan to meet NIU graduation requirements.

## Questions?

Please contact Academic Advisor Tifarah Jackson at [t\\_jackson@niu.edu](mailto:t_jackson@niu.edu).