ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

HELP YOUNG CHILDREN GROW TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Develop skills to work with young children from birth through age 8, as well as their families. Students will develop a strong foundational knowledge of young children’s growth, development, and health and nutrition needs, while also gaining the necessary skills to work in an inclusive environment. Purdue University Global’s associate’s degree in early childhood development prepares students to create effective learning environments for young children and help strengthen family and community relationships. Upon graduation, you’ll be ready to take on diverse opportunities ranging from preschool teacher to child care program specialist.
Why Study Early Childhood Development at Purdue Global?

ONLINE FLEXIBILITY FOR WORKING ADULTS
Earn your degree 100% online, on your schedule. You can also visit one of our regional locations to take advantage of local, onsite support and services.

TRANSFER CREDITS
Transfer up to 75% of your degree requirements to accelerate completion of your degree and save on tuition.2

AFFORDABLE TUITION
Lower the cost of your education through tuition reductions, military discounts, employer reimbursement options, and more. Our average associate’s graduate with prior college credits saves 60% on University tuition.3

FACULTY EXPERTISE
Learn from early childhood development professionals with extensive experience in the field. All faculty possess advanced academic degrees and relevant industry credentials.

ONE-ON-ONE MENTORING
Work directly with faculty through online discussion boards and faculty office hours, and enjoy no-cost individual tutoring. In addition, academic and career advisors are dedicated to helping you balance school with your career and life responsibilities.

INTRODUCTORY TRIAL PERIOD
Make sure online learning at Purdue Global is right for you. Enroll in the University and try our classes for 3 weeks before you owe any tuition. That’s the Purdue Global Commitment.4

Take the Next Step in Your Education and Career

GET A HEAD START ON YOUR BACHELOR’S
Coursework from the AAS in Early Childhood Development is 100% transferable into Purdue Global’s online Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Administration.6

GAIN THE CORE SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES NEEDED TO ADVANCE IN THIS FIELD
Prepare for career opportunities in various fields where you may implement your psychological knowledge, skills, and values.

- Knowledge Base—Apply knowledge of child development and learning theory in early childhood settings.
- Child, Family, and Community Relationships—Explain the development and implementation of strategies for building family and community relationships.
- Observation and Assessment—Identify developmentally appropriate observational and assessment techniques for informing instructional planning for children and their families.
- Learning Environments—Use developmentally appropriate principles, tools, and practices to create effective learning environments for young children.
- Ethics and Professionalism—Apply early childhood professional standards, ethical values, critical inquiry, and advocacy practices in early childhood settings.
- Individuality and Cultural Diversity—Examine the importance of individuality and cultural diversity of children and their families to learning and development.
Curriculum

Our program equips you with a foundational knowledge in early childhood development and focuses on the young child’s growth and development from birth through age 8, working with children in the inclusive classroom, health and nutrition needs, and activity implementation. The curriculum is continually reviewed and revised by our industry experts, curriculum department, and advisory board to ensure it reflects the most up-to-date developments and technical advances in the field.

COURSE EXAMPLES:
- Preparing for a Career in Early Childhood
- Early Childhood Development
- Early Childhood Curriculum Planning
- Introduction to Early Childhood Education
- Child Safety, Nutrition, and Health
- Creative Activities for Young Children
- Young Children with Special Needs

Capstone Project
The program culminates in a final capstone project, which gives you the opportunity to create a professional portfolio that integrates your learning experiences throughout the program. You will develop an understanding of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards, and of developmentally appropriate practices based upon child development research, curriculum, and professionalism.

PROGRAM DETAIL
Credit Hours: 90
Completion Time: 2 years (With transfer credit and other prior experience, the average completion time for Purdue Global associate’s degree graduates in 2019–2020 was 19 months.)
Course Load: 2–3 per term
Terms: 10 weeks
Start Dates: Throughout the year

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS
- Early Childhood Administration
- Human Services
- Psychology in Applied Behavior Analysis
- Communication
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Postbaccalaureate Certificate

Master’s Degrees
- Education
- Educational Psychology
- Instructional Design and Technology
- Teaching
- Psychology
- Public Administration
Career and Networking Opportunities

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

- An associate's degree and experience in early childhood development are typically required to become a preschool teacher. Some college may be required to be a teacher assistant in a child care setting.¹
- Employment of preschool and child care center directors is expected to increase from 2020 to 2030.⁸
- About 59,600 openings for preschool teachers are projected each year, on average, over the decade.⁸ Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.⁸

POTENTIAL CAREER PATHWAYS AND OUTCOMES

Roles
- Preschool teacher (except special education)
- Preschool assistant teacher
- Child care program specialist
Please note that some preschool teaching positions require specific state training.

Settings
- Early childhood programs
- Child care centers
- Prekindergarten programs
- Head Start programs
- Before- and after-school child care environments
- School readiness programs
- Local preschools
- Early intervention programs

THE CENTER FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT

Our team of Career Specialists connects you with job and networking opportunities, and offers the following assistance:
- Career assessment/exploration
- Resume and cover letter review
- Interview preparation/mock interviews
- Portfolio development to showcase your skills
- Assistance in building an online presence
- Job search and networking support
- Virtual career fairs
- 24/7 online access to job openings and career development tools

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND HONOR SOCIETIES

Autism Speaks U
Educators’ Association

Purdue Global Is Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission

The HLC (HLCommission.org) is a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Military Friendly

We offer reduced tuition rates for service members, veterans, and spouses.

Contact an Admissions Advisor at 844-PURDUE-G or visit PurdueGlobal.edu.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PLEASE READ

¹ Purdue Global does not guarantee employment placement or career advancement. Actual outcomes vary by geographic area, previous work experience and opportunities for employment.

² Purdue Global does not guarantee transferability of credit. See the University Catalog for the Prior Learning Assessment policy.

³ Purdue Global online associate’s degree students who graduated in the 2020–2021 academic year and entered their program with eligible prior learning (transfer, experiential, or credit by exam) credits saved an average of more than $20,000 toward the total degree. Campus tuition and prior learning credit savings vary by location. Savings based on overall cost of completion without prior learning credit. Calculation based on total prior learning credit times standard cost per credit in student’s program of study. Individual savings will vary. Calculation includes campus and military students. Purdue Global does not guarantee transferability of credit. See University Catalog for the Prior Learning Assessment policy. Source: Office of Reporting and Analysis, September 2021. 2020–2021 academic year.

⁴ Classes count toward a degree if satisfactorily completed. No credits are earned if the student withdraws during the introductory period (3 weeks for new qualifying undergraduate students), which begins day one of the first term. Students who choose to continue their studies at Purdue Global will need to meet specific requirements. Graduate programs not included. Additional terms may apply to international and non-U.S. citizen students. For further information, see the University Catalog.

⁵ Source: www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/best-public-universities-united-states. Rankings apply to Purdue University West Lafayette and not to Purdue Global.

⁶ Some college may be required to be a teacher assistant in a child care setting.¹

⁷ The University cannot guarantee that students will be granted admission to any future programs. Speak to an Advisor about transfer credit opportunities and see the University Catalog for the Prior Learning Assessment policy.