

**Early Childhood-Early Childhood Special Education**
**AAS Degree | 60 credits**

Campus: Mesabi Range-Virginia

<b>YEAR ONE</b>			
<b>FALL SEMESTER 2024 – 16 Credits</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Hours Lec/Lab</b>
ECED 1202	Child Development and Learning	3	3/0
ECED 1300 *	Foundations of Early Childhood	3	3/0
ECED 2414 *	Infant and Toddler Strategies	3	3/0
EDUC 1212 *	Environments for Learning	3	3/0
ENGL 1231	College Composition 1 (MnTC 1)	4	4/0
<b>SPRING SEMESTER 2025 – 14 Credits</b>			
COMM	Choose one of the following MnTC Goal 1 Communications Course: COMM 1210 Introduction to Communication COMM 1215 Public Speaking COMM 1220 Interpersonal Communication COMM 1225 Intercultural Communication (also meets MnTC Goal 7)	3	3/0
ECED 1206 *	Diverse Children and Family Relations	3	3/0
ECED 1207 *	Children's Health, Safety, and Nutrition	3	3/0
EDUC 1220	Teaching Children with Challenging Behaviors	2	2/0
MATH 1200	Liberal Arts Math (MnTC 4)	3	3/0

<b>YEAR TWO</b>			
<b>FALL SEMESTER 2025 – 16 Credits</b>			
ALHE 1100	Heartsaver First Aid with CPR and AED	1	1/0
ECED 1107	Practicum (40 Hours)	1	
ECED 1203 *	Observation and Assessment	3	3/0
ECED 1435	Methods of Teaching Early Childhood Literature	2	2/0
ECED 2214 *	Positive Behavior and Guidance Techniques	3	3/0
EDUC 2206	Trauma Informed Teaching	3	3/0
PSYC 1215	General Psychology (MnTC 5 & 7)	3	3/0
<b>SPRING SEMESTER 2026 – 14 Credits</b>			
ECED 1108	Practicum (80 Hours)	2	
ECED 2132 *	Special Needs in Early Childhood	3	3/0
ECED 2516 *	Early Childhood Creative Expressions	3	3/0
EDUC 2415	Cognitive Development and Children's Mental Health	3	3/0
PSYC 1220	Lifespan Development (MnTC 5 & 7)	3	3/0

**PROGRAM**

The Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education A.A.S. Degree prepares students for employment in an Early Childhood setting. Students will obtain the educational background and practical experience necessary to provide young children (birth to age eight) of varying abilities with developmentally appropriate learning experiences.

Students will also explore universal promotion, secondary prevention, and tertiary intervention approaches to educate and care for children with challenging behaviors. Physical space, appropriate routines, and myriad transition and teaching strategies will be practiced. In addition, students will develop several communication strategies that will foster an inclusive, relationship-based approach to interacting effectively with diverse families.

**PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

Students will

1. Learn how to support all children, regardless of their ability
2. Learn culturally responsive practices to engage with families and the community
3. Use creativity and build leadership skills

### PROGRAM NOTES

- Students must submit to and pass a Minnesota Criminal Background Study prior to participation in field experience.
- \* Course requires 16 field experience hours.
- The Child Development Certificate and/or Child Development Diploma can be earned after completing:
  - Certificate: ALHE 1100, ECED 1108, ECED 1202, ECED 1207
  - Diploma: Certificate courses, plus ECED 1107, ECED 1203, ECED 1206, ECED 1300, ECED 2132, ECED 2214, ECED 2414, EDUC 1212

### PROGRAM FACULTY

Erin Wirtz

Mesabi Range, Virginia Campus

[erin.wirtz@minnesotanorth.edu](mailto:erin.wirtz@minnesotanorth.edu)

Cody Geisler

Itasca Campus

218-322-2352

[cody.geisler@minnesotanorth.edu](mailto:cody.geisler@minnesotanorth.edu)