



Guide to Early Childhood Education/Related Field, Revised August 2016

For a college-level course to be considered “Early Childhood Education or a Related Field” (ECE/related), the content must address topics that support the knowledge and competencies of educators working with a birth to five population. The courses are primarily focused on young children and/or their families and emphasize a developmental understanding of young children and developmentally appropriate approaches for the early years.

Coursework currently or previously offered at RI institutions of higher education as a part of a degree in early childhood education, elementary education, or special education are acceptable towards the ECE/related requirement. A working document of these courses is available on the BrightStars website.

Course titles that contain the following words (appearing on a college transcript) are assumed to contain early care and education related content and are therefore considered ECE/related by BrightStars:

- Birth – Five
- Child/Children
- Child Development
- Early Childhood
- Early Childhood Spec. Ed.
- Early Intervention
- Early Learning
- Infant
- Toddler
- Preschool
- Kindergarten
- Young Children

Courses that contain the words or topics listed below in their titles or course description *could possibly* contain ECE/related content. BrightStars will request and review official course descriptions to make a determination. Please note that a program may request that any course, regardless of title, be reviewed for ECE/related content.

- Child & Family Studies
- Child Assessment & Observation
- Child Psychology
- Cognitive Development
- Communication
- Curriculum
- Developmentally Disabled
- Developmental Language & Communication
- Developmental Psychology
- Disabilities
- Education
- Educational Psychology
- Family
- Family Studies
- Early Learning or Psychology Field Experiences (placement relevant to young children)
- Health, Safety & Nutrition
- Home Economics
- Family & Consumer Science
- Human Development
- Instruction
- Language and/or Speech Development
- Language and/or Speech Disorders
- Learning Theory
- Lifespan Development
- Literacy
- Montessori
- Parenting
- Pediatric Nursing
- Play
- Positive Behavior Management
- Psychology
- Public Policy
- Recreation
- Sociology
- Social Work
- Storytelling