



Associate of Applied Science in

# EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

**Start Your Comeback Online With a Valuable Education Degree**

Don't just go back to school — come back stronger and more prepared than ever with a respected associate's degree backed by the power of Purdue. Our early childhood development program gives you a strong foundational knowledge of young children's growth, development, and health needs. At Purdue Global, gain the necessary skills to create effective learning environments for young children and to work in inclusive environments.<sup>1</sup>

# Why Study Early Childhood Development at Purdue Global?

## **Built for Working Adults**

Complete courses online, without compromising your work or family schedule.

## **Backed by the Power of Purdue**

Earn a degree you can be proud of — and employers will respect. Achieve more in the childhood development field with a name that opens doors in your career.

## **Experience Counts as Credit**

Get the credit you deserve. Transfer up to 75% of your degree requirements to graduate sooner. You can use prior academic, work, and military experience for credit.<sup>2</sup>

## **Affordable Tuition**

Lower the cost of your education through tuition reductions, military discounts, employer reimbursement options, and more. Our average associate's graduate saves 55% on tuition with credit for prior learning.<sup>3</sup>

## **Expert Faculty**

Learn from early childhood development and education experts who are practicing professionals in the field. All faculty possess advanced academic degrees and relevant industry credentials.

## **Personal Support**

Work directly with faculty through online discussion boards and seminars, 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.<sup>4</sup>

## **Nationally Ranked and Respected**

Purdue Global is part of the respected Purdue University system. One of the most prestigious research universities in the world, Purdue is ranked #16 most innovative company in the world alongside Open AI, NASA, and Microsoft.<sup>5</sup>

This program is intended for students who wish to advance their career by assuming a leadership or administrative role in an early childhood development setting. This program is not intended for individuals who are pursuing a license to teach early childhood education in a public or accredited private elementary school.

# Take the Next Step in Your Education and Career

## **Get a Head Start on Your Bachelor's Degree**

Coursework from the AAS in Early Childhood Development is 100% transferable into Purdue Global's online Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Administration.<sup>6</sup>

## **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 Identity**: Examine the importance of individuality and cultural identity 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
- Child Safety, Nutrition, and Health
- Introduction to Early Childhood Education
- 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:** 1–2 years (With transfer credit and other prior experience, the average completion time for Purdue Global associate's degree graduates in 2021–2022 was 1.7 years.)<sup>7</sup>

**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

## Master's Degrees

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Educational Psychology</li> <li>▪ Instructional Design and Technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Psychology</li> <li>▪ Public Administration</li> </ul>
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## Have your CDA? Earn Transfer Credit.

Students who hold a valid and current Child Development Associate (CDA) credential will earn 15 transfer credits for CE101, CE114 and CE220.

## Prepare for the CDA Credential

The course CE101: Introduction to Early Childhood Education meets the ten hours of training in each of the eight CDA Subject Areas that are required for the highly regarded Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. The eight areas include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planning a safe and healthy learning environment</li> <li>▪ Advancing children's physical and intellectual development</li> <li>▪ Supporting children's social and emotional development</li> <li>▪ Building productive relationships with families</li> <li>▪ Managing an effective program operation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintaining a commitment to professionalism</li> <li>▪ Observing and recording children's behavior</li> <li>▪ Understanding the principles of child development and learning</li> </ul>
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Many states require the CDA Credential for those who wish to take on the role of director of child development.

Students are responsible for understanding the requirements of optional certification exams. The University cannot guarantee students will be eligible to sit for or pass exams. In some cases, work experience, additional coursework beyond the Purdue Global program, fieldwork, and/or background checks may be necessary to be eligible to take or to successfully pass the exams.

# Career and Networking Opportunities

## Industry Outlook

Approximately 170,400 openings for teacher assistants are projected each year, on average, over the decade.<sup>8</sup> These openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers transferring to different occupations or exiting the labor force, such as those retiring.

## Potential Career Pathways and Outcomes

### Roles

- Teacher assistant
- Child care program specialist

### Settings

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

## 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](http://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 Prior Learning Credit Savings—Associate's: Purdue Global online associate's degree students who graduated in the 2021–2022 academic year and entered their program with eligible prior learning (transfer, experiential, or credit by exam) credits saved an average of nearly \$18,000 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 policy. Source: Office of Reporting and Analysis, July 2022. 2021–2022 academic year.

4 Students who inform Purdue Global they do not wish to pursue the program during the 3-week trial will not be charged. Students who choose to continue at Purdue Global will be billed for the full first term's tuition, including the 3-week trial, and will need to meet other specific requirements. Classes will be applied toward a degree if satisfactorily completed and students select to continue their studies at Purdue Global. 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. Graduate programs and BS in Professional Flight not included. Additional terms may apply to international and non-U.S. citizen students. For further information, see the University Catalog.

5 Source: [www.fastcompany.com/most-innovative-companies/list](http://www.fastcompany.com/most-innovative-companies/list). Ranking applies to Purdue University West Lafayette and not to Purdue Global.

6 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.

7 The average completion time for Purdue Global online associate's degree students who graduated in the 2021–2022 academic year was 1.7 years. Source: Purdue Global Office of Reporting and Analysis, July 2022.

8 Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Teacher Assistants, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/teacher-assistants.htm>; Childcare Workers, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/personal-care-and-service/childcare-workers.htm>; National long-term projections may not reflect local and/or short-term economic or job conditions, and do not guarantee actual job growth.