Practicum Experience

If you are employed full-time in the field, then you may be eligible to complete work experience practicum courses. Your employer must complete an educational agreement with River Valley Community College. In addition, your site supervisor must serve as a mentor to you as you complete key assignments.

ECE Tuition Assistant Program

The Community College System of New Hampshire, in partnership with Granite State College and the Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DHHS), is able to provide tuition assistance to eligible individuals. The goal of this program is to enable individuals working in the field to increase knowledge and skills, to obtain and maintain the NH Early Childhood Professional Credential. CCSNH students working at least 25 hours per week in a NH licensed early childhood program are invited to apply.

For more information, please visit:
www.ccsnh.edu/ece

Employment Opportunities

Graduates of RVCC’s Early Childhood Education Program are employed in a variety of settings:
- Child care centers
- Nursery schools
- Head Start programs
- Laboratory schools
- Family child care homes

Our graduates are working in different roles, but are all providing quality early care and education for young children, birth through age 8 years. In addition, these individuals are strengthening and supporting families and the communities in which they work.

For more information, contact:
Kerry Belknap Morris
Early Childhood Education Program Director
River Valley Community College
1 College Place, Claremont, NH 03743
603-542-7744 ext 5411
kmorris@ccsnh.edu

Student Success

RVCC Early Childhood graduates have:
- Completed bachelor’s degrees
- Earned ECE professional credentials
- Obtained teacher certification

Our graduates are working in leadership roles and advocating for young children:
Kathleen Audette Infant/Toddler Program Coordinator at DHMC Child Care Center
Jody Metcalf Director of the Walpole Village School
Kim Moulton RVCC Early Childhood Education Program’s Advisory Committee
Roberta Royce Executive Director of the Winchester Learning Center
Michelle Scott Vermont Specialized Care Provider

“I went on to receive my Bachelor’s Degree and teacher certification from Granite State College.” Beth Bonneville

“One day I struck up a conversation with the program director. I decided to take one of her courses and fell in love with the field.” Michelle Scott

“This is one of the most rewarding jobs; you get to witness children learning new things each and every day.” Jody Metcalf

“My goal in life is to teach my own children and the children I work with to be unique, different, and most of all themselves.” Darci Broe

“If I had to choose one thing about my college journey at RVCC I would have to say that the feeling of acceptance and belonging from both the faculty and the students gave me the courage and fortitude to complete that part of my quest.” Kathleen Audette

“I feel River Valley not only prepared me for the career path I chose but has been a continual link for me to continue on this path. I am able to encourage and support my teachers in attendance at River Valley with confidence they too will be prepared.” Roberta Royce
Mission & Philosophy

The Early Childhood Education Program at River Valley Community College strives to prepare individuals to enter into the workforce, to advance in their chosen career as early childhood professionals and educators, and to prepare for continued study, including academic transfer.

We recognize and respect that students in the Early Childhood Education Program have varied career goals, both short-term and long-range. We work to meet these varied student needs.

Curriculum

River Valley Community College’s Early Childhood Education curriculum utilizes the standards for early childhood professional preparation as outlined by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). All programs of study focus on:

- promoting child development & learning;
- building family & community relationships;
- observing, documenting, and assessing to support young children and families;
- using developmentally effective approaches to connect with children & families;
- using content knowledge to build meaningful curriculum; and,
- becoming a professional.

The Program

We offer two certificate programs and an associate degree.

The Level I Certificate (12 credits) is comprised of four core introductory courses: ECE101R, 102R, 103R & 104R. It is a great starting point for students interested in exploring the field. This certificate also allows individuals with an earned degree in a related field to earn specialized ECE credits.

The Level II Certificate (24 credits) is comprised of eight courses: six ECE courses—ECE101R, 102R, 103R, 104R, 105R, 190R/191R and two additional courses—Learning & Behavior and Introduction to Psychology.

The Associate Degree provides students with the most opportunities for future employment, career advancement, and continuing education, including transfer to bachelor degree programs. This degree is comprised of ECE/major courses and a core of general education classes.

Students may complete one program of study and easily continue on for further education. For example, all courses within the Level I Certificate can be “rolled over” into the Level II Certificate.

River Valley’s ECE Program accepts both full-time and part-time students. In addition, we welcome non-matriculated students (i.e., those not in a program of study) to take individual courses to satisfy professional development needs.

We have articulation agreements with several New Hampshire Career and Technical Centers. If you have successfully completed a secondary ECE program, then you may be eligible to receive college credits.

Admission Requirements

Applicants will need to meet the general requirements for admission to the College. In addition, applicants are advised that practicum placements and employment in the field will require a state registry and criminal records check. Additional information is in the College catalog.

Early Childhood Education Major Courses

- Foundations of Early Childhood Education
- Growth & Development of the Young Child
- Health, Safety & Nutrition
- Curriculum for Early Childhood Care & Education
- Children with Special Needs and Their Families
- Developmentally Appropriate Programs for Infants & Toddlers
- Organization & Management in Early Childhood Education
- Early Language & Literacy Development
- Status of Childhood in America
- Developmentally Appropriate Programs for the School-Age Child
- Family & Community Relationships in Early Childhood Education
- Practicum I/Work Experience Practicum I
- Practicum Seminar
- Practicum II/Work Experience Practicum II