

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a course prerequisite?

When a course has a prerequisite, it means you must have documented prior knowledge or skill to be successful in the course. The prior knowledge may be a skill (types 35wpm), ability (speaks and writes Spanish fluently), a test score (satisfactory placement test scores), or successful completion of a prior course (must have completed ENG 101 with a grade of "C" or better). Completion of the prerequisite is required prior to enrolling in the course. Prerequisites are checked by colleges during registration. You are required to show proof of meeting prerequisites.

What does it mean to enroll or matriculate in a college degree?

To matriculate means that you apply to be accepted into a degree-granting program at the college (such as Early Childhood Education), and are working towards a college degree. You are not matriculated if you are taking one course, but haven't applied to be accepted to a degree program at the college. Once matriculated, you will be assigned an advisor who will work with you to complete your degree.

What is an online or brick & click/hybrid college course?

Online classes are taught totally online, with no face-to-face meetings. Students usually have one week to complete assignments on their own schedule. Instructors will post timelines and assignment due dates each week. Students taking these courses need to be computer literate and able to establish and stick to a schedule that works for them.

“Brick & Click,” “Blended” or “Hybrid” college courses meet face-to-face a certain percentage of the time. The remaining classwork is done online in between these meetings. Easy access to a computer is necessary and basic computer and literacy skills extremely helpful.

What is a credit?

Colleges measure the time spent in class as credits. A college will grant credits based on the number of hours you attend the course. Usually, a course is 3 or 4 credits.

What is the college placement exam or ACCUPLACER tests?

The purpose of ACCUPLACER tests is to provide you with useful information about your academic skills in math, English, and reading. The results of the assessment, in conjunction with your academic background, are used by academic advisors and counselors to determine your course selection and eligibility. All questions are multiple choice, except the essay. On the day of the test, you should be sure to bring photo identification and any other special materials your college may ask you to bring. Each college has information about the test on their website. Usually there is a link for reviewing the material being asked and for taking practice tests as well.

What is the EEC Professional Certification Qualification?

To work in a group child care program as a Teacher, Lead Teacher, Site Coordinator (for OST) or Director (I and II), you must be qualified. There are six positions you can qualify for: Infant -Toddler Teacher; Preschool Teacher; Infant -Toddler Lead Teacher; Preschool Lead Teacher; Director I/Site Coordinator; or Director II. These qualifications can be applied to work in family child care and out-of-school time programs also although the job titles may differ.

What is an IPDP?

An Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) is a document that will help outline your unique pathway and the steps necessary to achieve academic and career goals. These are required of ALL educators working in EEC licensed programs under the guidelines of the QRIS system.

What is EEC's PQ Registry?

EEC's Professional Qualifications Registry (PQR) gathers important information on the size, composition, education, and experience of our current workforce. It stores information about the retention and turnover of educators working in early education and out-of-school time programs. This information will help EEC build a workforce development system that responds to the needs of all educators and programs in Massachusetts. Educators working in programs serving children from birth through 12 years of age, regardless of setting, are required to create an individual educator profile in the PQ Registry. <https://www.eec.state.ma.us/PQRegistry/>

What is a related field of study for early education?

Early Childhood Education
Child and Family Studies
Child Care Administration
Child Development
Child Guidance
Child Psychology
Family Studies
Human Services: Early Childhood Concentration