

SD #42 Dual Credit Program

Early Childhood Education Assistant (Certificate)

Shape the Future through Early Childhood Education

The **Early Childhood Education Assistant (ECEA)** certificate program at **WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE** equips students with foundational knowledge and skills to assist in early learning settings. The curriculum covers essential aspects of child development, safety protocols, and collaborative communication strategies. Graduates are prepared to support certified educators in nurturing young children's growth and learning.

- Introduction to child development theories and practices.
- Training in creating safe and engaging learning environments.
- Emphasis on effective communication with children, families, and colleagues.

One of the requirements to work as an **ECEA** in a licensed childcare facility in BC is to be certified by the Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Registry. The **ECE Assistant** program offered by **WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE** is **NOT** recognized by the **ECE Registry**. This means that upon graduation, students will have to apply for certification through the ECE Registry's equivalency process. For more information about the process visit the [ECE Registry Website](#).

What is a Dual Credit Program?

Dual Credit offers students a transition to post secondary learning, allowing students to begin taking post-secondary courses while still in high school. The SD 42 / WCC Dual Credit offering for the **ECEA** certificate program allows students to complete all the required program courses. In addition to providing the post-secondary credits, completed courses also count as elective credits at the Grade 12 level.

To qualify for graduation, students must be enrolled in English 12, Career Life Connections/Capstone, plus three other grade 12 courses. Those three other grade 12 courses would be satisfied by courses in the Western Community College **ECEA** certificate program. Essentially, students can double dip, receive high school and post-secondary credits at the same time, for the same course.

When and where is the program offered?

The program begins November 2026 and will run through May 2027. Instruction will take place at Riverside Centre (20575 Thorne Ave, Maple Ridge) on Fridays from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Excellent attendance is crucial; students who miss classes will be asked to leave the program.

What is the cost?

Students enrolled in the Dual Credit Program are **not required to pay tuition** (approximately \$1600). However, some fees may be assigned for required course materials (textbooks).

What is required to complete the program?

Dual Credit courses listed below will be completed, one at a time. To successfully complete the requirements for the **ECEA** certificate program, students must complete the following:

Child Growth and Development I	45 hours	<u>Interpersonal Communication</u>	<u>45 hours</u>
Child Growth and Development II	45 hours	Total	135 hours

Admissions Requirements

Open to grade 12 students or mature grade 11's. Seats are limited and will go to first qualified applicants.

How to Apply

Visit your school's Career Centre for an application package. For Inquiries and registration please contact: Penny Griffin - SD 42 Dual Credit Coordinator (penny_griffin@sd42.ca). More information here: <https://wcc.ca/programs/child-family-community-support/early-childhood-education-assistant-ecea/>