

**NORTHERN LIGHTS COLLEGE
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE
PROGRAM INFORMATION AND COMPLETION GUIDE**

Program Name: Early Childhood Education and Care
Credential/Certification: Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care
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Program Description: The Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Diploma program at Northern Lights College (NLC) provides opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to work in early care and learning programs in British Columbia (BC) supporting the care and education of children from birth through 12 years of age and their families. Educators use their specialized education to create and maintain inclusive and safe environments that encourage exploration for all children, while being responsive to children's needs and interests. Working within diverse communities and programs, Educators use reflective and collaborative practices to support children's understanding and engagement with the world.

The NLC ECEC Diploma program offers a variety of delivery methods including distance/online, on campus, and Work Integrated Learning (WIL), which enables students to remain in their home communities while integrating theoretical and practical experiences. The theory course work and practicum experiences prepares students to apply for BC Early Childhood Educator Registry certification (including Early Childhood Educator Assistant certification, Early Childhood Educator certification, Infant and Toddler Educator certification, and Special Needs Educator certification) at various points during the program.

Admission Requirements:

1. English - Domestic students and students from countries that practice Standard Written English must have official transcripts demonstrating that they have met one of the following English Requirements with a "C" grade or higher: English Studies 12 or equivalent, English First Peoples 12 or equivalent, ENGL-050 or equivalent, or ENGL-099 or equivalent; alternatively, any university-level 100 English course with a "C" grade or higher.

Students who do not meet one of the above English requirements must complete the NLC Writing Assessment for appropriate course placement at an English 100 level.

Students who received their secondary education in a language other than Standard Written English require minimum IELTS Academic scores of 6.0 overall with no band less than 6.0.

Dual credit students may submit secondary school transcripts indicating successful completion of English 11 and proof of enrollment in an acceptable Grade-12-level English course with an interim grade of "C" or higher, but must complete Grade 12-level English prior to registration.

For students applying to studies at Educacentre, the English requirement is replaced by successful completion of the French language test at a C (60%) or higher

2. Submission of ECE Program Questionnaire that supports suitability for the profession and course advising.

3. Applicants to the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) cohorts must submit a completed Employer Agreement Form indicating a mentor Educator with an active basic 5 year ECE certification from the BC ECE Registry. (WIL applicants only).

4. All applicants currently residing outside of Canada and intending to study in Canada, must submit a Police Certificate (see Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) in English, for every country in which they have been a resident for the previous five years (not including Canada). The Police Certificate must be received before a Letter of Acceptance will be issued.

Post Admission Requirement:

A clearance letter from the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General for a Schedule B Criminal Record Check (works with Children) or (works with Children and Vulnerable Adults) must be received prior to registration.

Students who have completed a valid Schedule B CRC for another organization may share their results with Northern Lights College by completing the Sharing Form.

*Note that CRCs must be renewed if they expire before the program is completed.

Under no circumstances are students permitted to complete any practical work without having a CRC on file with NLC's Office of the Registrar. Failure to ensure a valid CRC is on file with the Office of the Registrar may result in a requirement to withdraw from the program. Students are obligated to report any Schedule B criminal convictions that occur after they authorize a CRC but are still enrolled in NLC's Early Childhood Education and Care Program.

Please see NLC's Criminal Record Check procedures for instructions on how to complete a CRC.

Length of Program: (weeks and total hours)

62 credits (1370 hours), minimum, including 16 academic/theory courses (720 hours) and 4 practicum courses (650 hours). Typically, this is a two year program taken over four semesters with minimum of 15 credits per semester. Part-time studies will take longer.

The NLC ECEC Diploma program typically may be completed over a two-year period of full-time studies that may include Spring and Summer semesters/terms. Part-time study is also an option for distance/online and on campus study only. Work Integrated Learning is a full time study option only.

For both full- and part-time students, program completion time may vary depending on the availability of courses and on individual course selection.

Program Intake: (start/finish dates)

Distance/Online: September (Fall), January (Winter), May (Intersession) - All intakes available for full or part time program starts or for returning/reactivating students.

On Campus Cohorts: September (Fall) - for full time or part time program start -
*students who are returning/reactivating or who have completed some course work may join the cohort during the January (Winter) or May (Intersession) intake times dependent on course and seat availability.

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Cohort: January (Winter) for full time program start -
*students who are returning/reactivating or who have completed some course work may be able to join the cohort during the May (Intersession) or September (Fall) intake times dependent on courses completed and on course and seat availability. All students joining will be required to fully participate/attend in the learning activities established for the cohort.

Available Seats:

Distance/Online: Varies from course to course

On Campus: 30 per Cohort

WIL: 30 per Cohort

Application Deadline: August 1st for fall intake with semester courses beginning in September; December 1st for winter intake with semester courses beginning in January; April 1st for Intersession (Spring) intake with semester courses beginning in May and July.

Career Prospects:

Early Childhood Educators with BC ECE Registry certification* may be employed as educators, supervisors, managers, directors, or administrators of early care and learning programs.

With additional relevant education (e.g., a Child and Youth Care Degree, Social Work Degree, or an Early Childhood Education graduate degree), Early Childhood Educators may find work as child development counsellors or consultants, family resource centre coordinators, child care resource and referral consultants/co-ordinators, licensing officers, researchers, or instructors.

Students planning on transferring to further post-secondary programs are encouraged to complete ENGL 100 Academic Writing in addition to the NLC ECEC Diploma requirements.

*For up-to-date information on the BC ECE Registry requirements, please visit their website.

Affiliations/Partnerships:

1. Northern Lights College has a Memorandum of Agreement with Collège Éducacentre for delivery of NLC's ECEC Diploma program for French-speaking students.

2. Graduates of NLC's English version of the ECEC Diploma are eligible for direct admission to the Justice Institute of British Columbia's (JIBC) Advanced Specialty Certificate in Community Care Licensing. Advanced standing at JIBC is also granted for HDEC 104 Human Development 2.

Location:

Distance/Online: The online course offerings make use of both an online learning platform, Desire to Learn (D2L), and an online webinar application, Microsoft Teams, to allow students to remain in their home communities to complete both theory course work and practicum experiences in early care and learning environments that are approved by NLC. Students unable to locate suitable practicum placements in their home community may need to relocate to another community for one or more of the practicum courses.

On Campus: Face-to-face cohort course offerings are available within the Northern Lights College catchment region and videoconferenced between campuses, including Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Chetwynd, Fort Nelson, and Tumbler Ridge.

*International students are only able to be located at either Dawson Creek or Fort St. John campus. On Campus courses may be offered in other provincial regions depending on student enrollment or special-project funding.

Work Integrated Learning (WIL): The work integrated cohort course offerings blend both an online learning platform, Desire to Learn (D2L), and an online webinar application,

Microsoft Teams, to allow students to remain in their home communities at their current early care and learning centre to complete both theory course work and practicum experiences.

*Note that most courses require regular access to children in an early care and learning program regardless of delivery mode.

Students and/or their employers are advised to review NLC's ECEC Admissions web page or contact ECECPracticaPlanning@nlc.bc.ca for more information on workplace practicum options and criteria or the ece-ea-chair@nlc.bc.ca for work integrated learning practicum criteria.

Additional Requirements/Supplies: (fees, supplies, materials)

Instruction Related Fees - covering technology costs & assistance; publishing royalties/readings

Textbooks and Licenses for Electronic texts

*For computer and internet requirements refer to the NLC Information Technology Minimum Computer Requirement page located at <https://www.nlc.bc.ca/Services/Information-Technology/minPC>.

Eligibility for Canada Student Loans: (Yes or No)

Yes - on campus and online

Under review - WIL.

Required Minimum Grade: (overall and/or minimum within a course)

Minimum of C in all courses.

Residency Requirement: (percentage of courses which must be taken at NLC)

25% = 5 courses (4 theory and 1 practicum).

Required Courses: (list courses required to complete credential and total hours for each course)

Typical Year One:

HDEC 100 - 3 credits	Essential Skills for Human Service Workers (45 hours)
HDEC 101 - 3 credits	Human Development 1 (45 hours)
HDEC 102 - 3 credits	Health, Safety and Nutrition (45 hours)
HDEC 103 - 3 credits	Guiding and Caring (45 hours)
ECED 109A - 3 credits	Practicum 1 (130 hours)
ECED 101 - 3 credits	Principles and Practices 1 (45 hours)

HDEC 121 - 3 credits	Interpersonal Communications (45 hours)
ECEC 100 - 3 credits	Curriculum 1 (45 hours)
HDEC 104 - 3 credits	Human Development 2 (45 hours)
ECED 110 - 3 credits	Practicum 2 (130 hours)

Typical Year Two:

ECEC 201 - 3 credits	Building Professional-Family Partnerships (45 hours)
ECEC 202 - 3 credits (45 hours)	Administration and Leadership in Early Childhood Education
ECEC 200- 3 credits	Curriculum 2 (45 hours)
ECED 150 - 3 credits	The Early Childhood Education Professional (45 hours)
ECED 111 - 4 credits	Practicum 3 (165 hours)
ECEC 203 - 3 credits	Current Perspectives on Practice (45 hours)
ECED 203A - 3 credits	Development 3 Infant and Toddlers (45 hours)
ECED 207 - 3 credits	Curriculum 3 Infants and Toddlers (45 hours)
ECED 215 - 3 credits hours)	Curriculum 4 Working with Children with Diverse Abilities (45
and	
ECED 208 - 4 credits	Practicum -- Infants and Toddlers (225 hours)
Or	
ECED 210 - 4 credits	Practicum -- Diverse Abilities (225 hours)

Notes:

1. Graduates from NLC's Education Assistant Certificate or Diploma program who enroll in NLC's Early Childhood Education and Care Diploma program are granted credit for ECED109A and ECED150.

2. Graduates from NLC's Early Childhood Education and Care Diploma who want to obtain their final BC ECE Registry Post-Basic ECE certification can apply to the Human Services Professional Development (HSPD) Advanced Certificate program to take either the ECED 208 (Infant/Toddler) or ECED 210 (Diverse Abilities) practicum course (whichever is not taken during their Diploma). All theory courses are completed as part of the NLC ECEC Diploma program.