



Associate in Arts to Bachelor of Science in Education: Elementary Education with option in Early Childhood Education

This guide is intended to create a smooth and seamless curriculum transition for students who earn the Associate in Arts (AA) at Black Hawk College (BHC) to transfer and complete the Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.Ed.) with a major in Elementary Education / **option in Early Childhood Education** at Western Illinois University (WIU). This guide incorporates the 2025-2026 BHC and WIU catalogs.

Program and licensure requirements for this major are subject to change without notice. Any new State of Illinois mandated obligations will supersede program requirements identified in this guide.

Degree Availability AA offered on the Quad Cities and East Campuses and online. Science labs are on-campus only.
B.S.Ed. in Elementary Education/Early Childhood Education option offered in the Quad-Cities (Hybrid) and Macomb.

GPA Requirements Graduation from BHC **2.00** Admission to WIU **2.00**

As part of the entrance requirements to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) a minimum GPA of 2.00 is required with at least 45 semester hours completed. All grades on the transfer transcript will count in the calculation of the 2.00 GPA to determine eligibility into the major and to enroll in upper-division courses and field experiences. Admission to WIU does not automatically constitute acceptance to the TEP. Students who plan to complete teaching licensure requirements must also apply for admission to the TEP (see the Teacher Education Program Handbook at wiu.edu/teacher.)

Grade Requirements In accordance with the Illinois State Board of Education licensure rules, all candidates seeking a Professional Education License or endorsement are required by WIU to obtain a grade of "C" or better in all directed general education courses, all core courses, and all courses in the Early Childhood Education option. This rule does not supersede course prerequisite requirements in the catalog that specify a letter grade.

General Education Refer to the [BHC AA degree requirements](#) for course options as needed.

- ✓ The AA degree includes the IAI General Education Core Curriculum. Completing the AA satisfies WIU University General Education Curriculum.
- ✓ BHC requires **one non-western studies designated course** to complete the AA and it may simultaneously fulfill an IAI GECC category in Humanities, Fine Arts, or Social and Behavioral Sciences, or be taken as an elective.

Credit Hours ✓ A minimum of 60 credits is required to complete the AA degree and a minimum of 24 credits must be earned at BHC.

- ✓ A minimum of 120 total credits is required to complete the B.S.Ed. in Elementary Education/Early Childhood Education option and a minimum of 60 credits must be earned at WIU.

Other Students following this guide for an AA degree may also transfer into a non-licensure track leading to the completion of Gateway credentials. Internships are completed instead of student teaching.

The following course sequence assumes a fall start. It may be modified for a summer or spring start and for part-time attendance. Selected BHC courses may be offered in summer or during minimester.

BHC Courses & Credit Hours

Transfers to WIU as

Semester 1			
ENG 101	Composition I BHC requires 'C' or better	3	ENG 180
ECE 100	Intro to Early Childhood	3	ECH 271
ECE 200	Growth & Devel of Young Child	3	ECH 273
MATH 100	Math for Elem Teachers I.	4	MATH 106
	IAI GECC Physical Science. <i>CHEM 110, CHEM 101 or PS 101 recommended</i> see Note 1	3-4	Natural Science Elective
Semester total		16-17	

Semester 2			
ENG 102	Composition II BHC requires 'C' or better	3	ENG 280
ECE 202	Observ/Assessment Y.C.	3	ECH 277
	IAI GECC Social & Behavioral Science. <i>HIST 105 US History to 1877 or HIST 106 US History since 1877 strongly recommended</i> see Note 2	3	Social Behavioral Science, or HIST 105, HIST 106
MATH 200	Math for Elem Teachers II (fulfills IAI GECC Mathematics for this major)	4	MATH 206
	IAI GECC Fine Arts. <i>ART 100 Art Appreciation, MUSC 154 Music Appreciation, MUSC 158 Intro to Non-Western Music or THEA 111 Introduction to Theatre Arts strongly recommended</i> see Note 2	3	Fine Arts, or ART 180, MUS 190, MUS 394 lower division, or THEA 110
Semester total		16	

Semester 3			
SPEC 101	Principles of Speech Communication	3	COMM 241
EDUC 202	Multicultural/Soc Found of Ed (fall only)	3	EDS 202
ENG 240	Children's Literature	3	LA 313 (lower division credit)
	IAI GECC Life Science. <i>Select a BIOL course</i> see Note 1	3-4	Natural Science Elective
	IAI GECC Social & Behavioral Science. <i>POLS 122 American National Government strongly recommended</i> see Note 2	3	Social Behavioral Science, or POLS 122
Semester total		15-16	

Semester 4			
ECE 222	Child Family & Community	3	EDS 220
	IAI GECC Humanities or IAI GECC Fine Arts see Note 2	3	Humanities or Fine Arts

	<i>Select a Non-Western Studies designated general education course if not previously completed.</i>		
	IAI GECC Social & Behavioral Science. see Note 2 <i>Select a Non-Western Studies designated general education course if not previously completed.</i>	3	Social or Behavioral Science
EDUC 103	Foundations of Education or elective see Note 3	2	C & I 110 or elective
EDUC 104	Foundations of Teaching I or elective see Note 3	1	C & I 170 or elective
EDUC 105	Foundations of Teaching II or elective see Note 3	1	C & I 270 or elective
	Semester total	13	

NOTES

1. The AA degree requires 7 semester hours of general education science by taking one IAI GECC Life Science courses and one IAI GECC Physical Science course, one of which must have a lab.
2. The listed U.S. History, Art/Music/Theater and Political Science courses are not specifically required for the WIU major; however, they are strongly recommended to prepare for content testing leading to teacher licensure.
Also note that the Humanities/Fine Arts requirement must include courses from two different disciplines. The Social Behavioral Science requirement must include courses from two different disciplines.
3. Black Hawk awards articulated credit to students who completed EDUC 103, EDUC 104 and/or EDUC 105 while in high school offered through participating “Grow Your Own” teacher preparation programs. Students should make their official high school transcript available to BHC for review. Students who did not take these courses in high school may complete WIU’s equivalent C & I courses in the first semester after transfer.
4. The Early Childhood Education option has a very prescribed curriculum so students should not take random electives. If additional courses are needed to complete the AA degree, see a BHC advisor for recommendations. REA 103 (taken only if required by assessment) will count as an elective in the AA; the course transfers to WIU as an elective.
5. Students transferring before completing the AA degree or the Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core may need additional hours to meet WIU’s 37-credit University General Education Curriculum.
6. Students are encouraged to view the [WIU Transfer Pointers](#) and visit the [WIU program website](#) for details about admission, assessment, student teaching and licensure.

For questions about this guide and to apply, please contact:

Black Hawk College

Advising
E: ADVQC@bhc.edu
P: 309-796-5100

Admissions Office
E: info@bhc.edu
P: 309-796-5341

WIU (Advising)

QC- Kenny Wheeler: KW-Wheeler@wiu.edu
Macomb- Jeanne Gage jc-gage@wiu.edu

This guide is intended as a projected plan coordinated by both institutions and is not presented as a contract. While effort is made to present current information, both institutions reserve the right to make changes to admission, graduation, degree, course and supplementary information without notice. Students are responsible for confirming all guide contents.