

Early Childhood Education & Teacher Education HANDBOOK



Learning Today . . . Leading Tomorrow

Southeastern Community College provides accessible, quality programs and services which promote student success and economic vitality.

Programs:

Early Childhood Education AAS & Corresponding Certificates/Degrees

Elementary Education AA

Secondary Education AA



[Early Childhood Education Overview](#)
[Teacher Education Overview](#)

Our program strives to prepare students for careers in Early Childhood and Teacher Education. We offer certificates, a diploma, an Early Childhood AAS degree, an Elementary AA degree, and a Secondary AA degree.

The Teacher Education Program maintains high standards established by the Higher Learning Commission and the Iowa Department of Education to ensure sound preparation of our students. Our education degrees are comprised of quality core education courses, hands-on learning through classroom observations, practicum experiences and connections with community organizations. Our program encourages student membership in Professional Organizations. Professionalism is embedded in our courses by focusing on the SCC Core Competencies.

As you begin your journey at SCC, be prepared to meet high standards in course content, be challenged to grow professionally, and understand your social responsibility as you educate yourself for this field. The following information will serve as a guide to assist you with the journey.

Our faculty and advisors are available to answer any questions that you might have.



Southeastern Community College Mission

Southeastern Community College provides accessible, quality programs and services which promote student success and economic vitality.

Southeastern Community College Vision

Southeastern Community College, a visionary leader in lifelong learning, embraces diversity, transforms lives, strengthens communities, and inspires individuals to excellence.

Teacher Education Program Goals

1. To provide general studies and education courses following Iowa teacher education guidelines.
2. To identify four-year institution partnerships that provide transfer programs for education students.
3. To utilize technology related to teaching skills as well as communication, research and management of information.
4. To create partnerships with early education programs and local school districts.
5. To understand the importance of effective classroom and behavior management.
6. To identify current educational issues and how that impacts the classroom.
7. To recognize that student growth is supported by community support, families and educators.
8. To put into practice the knowledge gained regarding ethics and professionalism.
9. Understanding the developmental stages of our learners and building opportunities that support their social, emotional, and cognitive abilities.

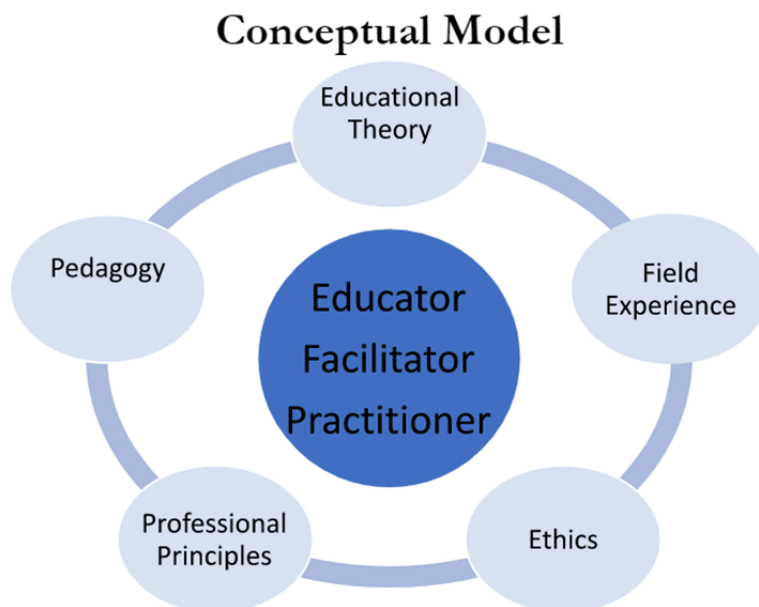
Conceptual Framework

The Teacher Education Program at Southeastern Community College lays the groundwork for a solid foundation based upon **educational theory**, practical **field experience** along with **pedagogical, developmental, ethical and professional principles**. These building blocks are aligned with the Iowa Teaching Standards identified by the Department of Education. The Teacher Education Transfer Degrees prepare students to transfer to 4-year institutions to complete their identified education degree.

The format of the program emphasizes pedagogy and constructivism as critical elements in the experiences students will have in the various courses. Pedagogical knowledge refers to the presentation and strategies used by the educator in the presentation of the content. Constructivism is a learning theory that emphasizes the ways in which learners actively create meaning by constructing and reconstructing ideas about reality. Theorists, such as John Dewey, Lev Vygotsky, Benjamin Bloom, Howard Gardner, Jean Piaget and countless others, add perspective and richness to the understanding and application for pedagogy and constructivism.

Southeastern Community College's Core Competencies

Embedded within the Education coursework are Southeastern Community College's Core Competencies which include *Communication, Critical Thinking, Cultural Awareness, Civic Awareness along with Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning*.



Essential Qualifications for Teacher Educators

The following technical standards address cognitive, communication, and behavioral abilities essential to this program. Students must meet these technical standards in order to be successful in the program. Students with disabilities who wish to request reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act must follow the college's procedure for requesting accommodations. The college reserves the right to reject requests for accommodations that would fundamentally alter the nature of the educational program, lower the academic standards, cause undue hardship on the college, or endanger the health or safety of a student with a disability, other students, clinical patients or any other member of the college community.

Teacher educators play a pivotal role in guiding and supporting students. The following qualifications are essential for ensuring the success of both the aspiring teachers and the students they engage with:

1. **Professional Expertise and Knowledge:**

- Deep understanding of educational theory, pedagogy, and instructional strategies.
- Mastery of subject-specific content relevant to the field experience.
- Awareness of current educational trends, policies, and standards.
- With or without reasonable accommodations, a candidate must also be able to recall, evaluate, analyze, synthesize, apply and engage in critical thinking.

2. **Communication:**

- With or without reasonable accommodations, a candidate for this program must be able to express information and ideas coherently and listen to and understand information and ideas.
- Candidates must be capable of effectively and professionally communicating and interacting with co-workers, parents, and students in both oral and written forms.
- Candidates must be able to read and write reports and other information and ideas.
- Candidates must be able to speak clearly so others may understand and must be able to identify and understand the speech of others.

3. **Experience in Classroom Management:**

- Proven ability to model and teach effective classroom management techniques.
- Experience handling diverse learning environments and student needs.

4. **Commitment to Ethical Standards and Professionalism:**

- Uphold the highest ethical standards, promoting integrity and respect in educational practice.
- Commitment to continuous self-reflection and improvement.
- Foster an inclusive, equitable environment, modeling professionalism and cultural competence.
- With or without reasonable accommodations, a candidate for this program must be able to work independently with limited supervision and work cooperatively with co-workers.
- Candidates must complete responsibilities in a timely manner, and exercise good judgment.

Requirements for Teacher Education Students:

1. A Background check is required prior to beginning field experience.
2. Students are expected to attend a minimum of 85% of each ECE/EDU course in which they are enrolled in during the academic term. Students who fail to meet this attendance requirement may not be eligible to pass the course.
3. A cumulative content area GPA of 2.0 or higher is required for *ALL ECE Courses and ALL EDU Courses.
4. Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and institutional GPA of 2.0 to apply for graduation.
5. All transfer Teacher Education Majors will be required to submit applications to their transfer institutions and follow those guidelines for acceptance into their programs.

Prerequisites and Grading Scale

Because our goal is to develop quality teacher educators, we have established prerequisites for some of our classes. Use the catalog to identify which classes have prerequisites prior to registration of classes. We are training future educators and have set the bar very high for our pre-service teachers.

A= 100-90% B= 89-80% C= 79-70% D= 69-60% F= 59% & below

Field Experience & Classroom Observations

Students engaged in field experience are expected to display professional, respectful, and positive interactions with the students they support. This includes establishing rapport, fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment, and adapting communication styles to meet the diverse needs of all learners. Through active listening, clear and constructive feedback, and appropriate boundaries, field experience students should model behaviors that contribute to both the academic and social-emotional development of the students under their care. These interactions reflect a commitment to fostering mutual respect, trust, and a supportive educational experience.

All observations must follow guidelines required by SCC and partner schools.

- Students must have a current clear background check to be enrolled in any of our courses.
- Interact with the college instructor concerning the classroom assignment and goals.
- A signed contract that identifies student expectations while enrolled in one of the teacher education programs (ECE/ELEM ED/SEC ED).
- You are required to wear your SCC ID badge (above the waist) when working in any school setting as well as any required identification the school system requires.
- Understand that you are taking on the role of a professional while observing.

Required Background Check Guidelines

Southeastern Community College requires that all teacher education students pass a background check prior to any observation in the schools. A background check may be required at different times during the coursework.

If an event occurs in your life that might impact your cleared background check, you are required to meet with your education instructor immediately.

Some experiences may require some or all the following:

- Fingerprints
- TB test
- CPR/First Aid
- Student membership to a professional organization to show proof of student liability insurance prior to classroom observations.

Liability Insurance

The college's liability insurance covers students in the Teacher Education program while students are in a supervised assignment or experience. The cost of the liability insurance is covered by the general fund.

Professional Portfolio

Portfolios are an integral piece for our ECE and EDU degrees at SCC. As you move through both your core education classes and your ECE/EDU classes, you will be required to archive key pieces to include in your portfolio as well as provide pieces for the program to provide to our accrediting body. These will allow you the opportunity to show mastery of the key concepts for the coursework. Your capstone classes will require a submission of your portfolio. Many of your transfer institutions will require portfolio pieces for admission.

Handbook Statement

The student handbook has been developed by the SCC Teacher Education Program to serve as a guide for all students pursuing certificates and degrees in Early Childhood Education and Teacher Education. This handbook is a supplement to the SCC Student Handbook and Course Catalog and should be used in tandem with all other official documents. SCC reserves the right to change courses, requirements, and policies without advance notice.

Additional Information

Important links to the Iowa Department of Education

1. [Iowa Department of Education](#)
2. [Educator Licensure](#)
3. [Iowa Teaching Standards and Criteria](#)
4. [Iowa School Performance Profiles](#)
5. [Early Childhood Standards](#)

Professional Organizations

1. [Professional Educators of Iowa](#)
2. [National Education Association \(nea\)](#)
3. [American Federation of Teachers](#)

National Teaching Standards

1. [InTASC Model Core Teaching Standards](#)
2. [NAEYC Standards](#)

4 Year Transfer Institutions

1. [Buena Vista University](#)
2. [Iowa State University](#)
3. [Mt. Mercy University](#)
4. [Northwestern College](#)
5. [University of Northern Iowa](#)
6. [University of Iowa](#)
7. [Western Governors University](#)
8. [Western Illinois University](#)

**Southeastern Community College
Teacher Education Handbook
CONTRACT**



The Teacher Education Program maintains high standards established by the Higher Learning Commission and the Department of Education to ensure sound preparation for our students.

Please read, sign and submit the following contract.

I understand that I am expected to familiarize myself with the policies and procedures contained in the SCC Course Catalog, SCC Handbook, and the Teacher Education Handbook. I am held accountable for the information contained and any supplements that might be added.

I understand that as a student I must have a current clear background check to be enrolled in any of the ECE/EDU courses.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____