

Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education

*A career focused degree for the educators shaping California's youngest learners,
earned online, with supervised field experience built into the major.*

DEGREE PROGRAM · 60 SEMESTER UNITS · ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE DELIVERY · FIVE WEEK
TERMS

60

SEMESTER UNITS

20

COURSES TOTAL

5

WEEKS PER TERM

2,700

TOTAL LEARNING
HOURS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education at Theoria Technical College prepares students for work in preschool, infant and toddler care, family childcare, and early learning program support. The degree combines an eight course EEAS Core major of 24 units, three EEAS electives totaling 9 units, and a nine course general education foundation of 27 units spanning natural science, humanities, social and behavioral science, communication, healthful living, diversity, and mathematics.

Coursework is delivered asynchronously through the Orbund learning management system. EEAS Core courses carry a Supervised Field Experience component completed at an approved early childhood site, so students graduate with verified field hours documented by a signed site supervisor evaluation and timesheet. Supervised Field Experience is a requirement within the course; it is not a separate internship or externship.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

PLO 1. Apply foundational child development theories to support the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of young children in early learning and care settings.

PLO 2. Design and implement developmentally appropriate learning experiences that reflect evidence based best practices, cultural responsiveness, and inclusive approaches to early childhood education.

PLO 3. Demonstrate effective communication and collaboration skills when working with children, families, colleagues, and community partners.

PLO 4. Promote health, safety, and well being by applying appropriate health and safety policies, procedures, and regulatory requirements in early childhood education environments.

PLO 5. Analyze professional practices and ethical responsibilities relevant to early childhood education, including reflective evaluation of personal growth and professional conduct.

PLO 6. Apply foundational administrative and organizational concepts relevant to early childhood programs, including documentation, supervision awareness, and basic program operations at an introductory level.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Sixty degree applicable semester units across three requirement areas. Each course carries 3 semester units and 135 total learning hours.

EEAS Core · 24 units · all eight courses required

COURSE	TITLE	UNITS
EEAS-101	Child Growth and Development: Childhood and Adolescence	3
EEAS-102	Child, Family, Community, and School Socialization	3
EEAS-103	Early Childhood Curriculum: Theories, Methods, and Practices	3
EEAS-104	Infant and Toddler Development: Conception to Age Three	3
EEAS-105	Early Childhood Program Administration	3
EEAS-106	Health, Safety and Nutrition for the Young Child	3
EEAS-107	Adult Supervision and Leadership: A Developmental Approach	3
EEAS-108	S.T.E.A.M. for Preschool: Materials and Curriculum	3

All eight EEAS Core courses are completed at Theoria Technical College. Transfer credit and experiential credit may not be applied to the EEAS Core. Up to fifteen semester units of the EEAS Core, a maximum of five of the eight courses, may be satisfied through Theoria administered credit by examination under IPM 4.16; the remaining EEAS Core courses are completed in residence through direct instruction. Pediatric CPR and First Aid is a graded requirement within EEAS-106 and must be satisfied to complete that course.

EEAS Electives · 9 units · choose three of seven

COURSE	TITLE	UNITS
EEAS-110	Cognitive Development: How Children Think	3
EEAS-120	Effective Strategies for Challenging Behaviors	3
EEAS-210	Early Childhood Special Education	3
EEAS-320	Creating Environments for Learning	3
EEAS-330	Music and Movement	3
EEAS-410	STEAM for Infants and Toddlers	3
EEAS-610	Promoting Wellness: Emotional Wellness and Trauma in Early Childhood Education	3

General Education · 27 units across Areas A through H

AREA	COURSE	UNITS
A · Natural Sciences	BIO-101 Human Biology	3
B1 · Social and Behavioral	HIS-101 U.S. History, 1600–1877	3
B2 · Social and Behavioral	SOC-101 Introduction to Sociology	3
C · Humanities	ENG-201 Children's Literature	3

AREA	COURSE	UNITS
D1 • Composition	ENG-101 English Composition and Research Writing (also satisfies Area H)	3
D2 • Communication	COMM-101 Workplace Communication	3
E • Healthful Living	HLTH-101 Introduction to Health	3
F • Diversity	ETHN-101 Introduction to Ethnic Studies	3
G • Math Competency	MTH-101 College Math and Algebra	3

Area H, Reading Competency, is demonstrated by passing ENG-101 with a grade of C or better; no additional units are required. Math competency is demonstrated by passing MTH-101 with a grade of C or better. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better is required in both the general education component and the EEAS Core and elective major.

WHERE THE DEGREE CAN TAKE YOU

Common employer roles in California's early childhood workforce.

Preschool teacher or lead teacher in licensed early care and education settings

Infant and toddler caregiver in center based or family childcare programs

Assistant director or program supervisor in a licensed center, subject to the qualifications set by licensing requirements and the employer

Home based or family childcare provider

Behavioral support aide or special education paraeducator

Program owner, nanny, coach, or staff member in community and faith based early childhood programs

Important. The roles listed above are common employer job titles. They are not Child Development Permit titles.

Coursework in this program is structured for consideration towards Child Development Permit and credential pathways under AB 320; final determination of eligibility for any permit or credential rests solely with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Employment eligibility also depends on experience, age, health and safety, clearance, and role specific requirements that are set by employers and by licensing authorities. Theoria Technical College does not guarantee employment, permit eligibility, or employer acceptance based on completion of coursework or accumulation of units.

HOW THE PROGRAM IS DELIVERED

- **Asynchronous online coursework.** Every course is delivered through the Orbund learning management system. There are no set meeting times for degree coursework. The Supervised Field Experience component within EEAS Core courses is completed in person at an approved early childhood site.
- **Five week terms.** Focused, sequential terms allow students to move through the program without carrying a full traditional semester load. Full time and part time pathways are available.
- **Documented field experience.** EEAS Core courses include a Supervised Field Experience component consisting of verified field hours, a signed site supervisor evaluation, and a timesheet retained in the student record.
- **Credit hour integrity.** Each 3 unit course is structured under IPM 4.3 and 34 CFR § 600.2 as 45 hours of direct faculty instruction and 90 hours of independent learning, for 135 total learning hours. The 45 Supervised Field Experience hours are counted within the 90 independent learning hours.

- **Regular and Substantive Interaction.** Distance education courses are designed to meet the Regular and Substantive Interaction requirements of 34 CFR § 600.2 through scheduled instructor presence, substantive feedback, and discussion facilitation. Institutional standards call for graded work to be returned within seven calendar days and for faculty to respond to student messages on business days.
- **Transfer and examination credit.** Up to fifteen semester units of transfer and experiential credit may be applied to eligible general education and elective coursework, evaluated under IPM 4.6. Credit by examination is governed by a separate fifteen unit maximum under IPM 4.16. Combined non residence credit applied toward any Theoria Technical College credential may not exceed thirty semester units. A credit evaluation fee applies.

REQUIRED CONSUMER DISCLOSURES

Prospective students should read the following before enrolling.

Approval to Operate. Theoria Technical College is a private postsecondary institution organized under the laws of the State of California and approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. Approval to operate means the institution is compliant with the minimum standards contained in the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009, as amended, and Division 7.5 of Title 5, California Code of Regulations. Approval to operate does not mean the institution or its programs are endorsed or recommended by the State or by the Bureau, and does not indicate that the institution exceeds minimum state standards.

Accreditation Status. Theoria Technical College is a candidate for accreditation with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, effective February 3, 2026. Candidacy is a recognized pre accreditation status; it does not constitute initial accreditation or full accreditation and does not assure that accreditation will be granted. Theoria Technical College is also an applicant institution with the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training. Applicant status signifies participation in an initial accreditation review process; it is not a grant of accreditation.

- The Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education is not designed to lead to a position requiring state licensure, and there is no licensure examination associated with this program.
- A degree program that is unaccredited, or a degree from an unaccredited institution, is not recognized for some employment positions, including but not limited to positions with the State of California.
- A student enrolled in an unaccredited institution is not eligible for federal financial aid programs.

Notice Concerning Transferability of Credits and Credentials Earned at Our Institution. The transferability of credits you earn at Theoria Technical College is at the complete discretion of an institution to which you may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the degree or certificate you earn in your educational program is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. If the credits or degree or certificate that you earn at this institution are not accepted at the institution to which you seek to transfer, you may be required to repeat some or all of your coursework at that institution. For this reason you should make certain that your attendance at this institution will meet your educational goals. This may include contacting an institution to which you may seek to transfer after attending Theoria Technical College to determine if your credits or degree or certificate will transfer.

Child Development Permits and Credentials. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing is the sole final authority on eligibility for a Child Development Permit or any related credential. The Commission requires coursework applied toward a Child Development Permit to be completed at a regionally accredited college or university. Under California Education Code section 44203, as amended by AB 320, Chapter 663, Statutes of 2021, coursework or degrees completed while an institution holds pre accreditation, or candidacy, status may satisfy the regional accreditation requirement only if the institution achieves full accreditation within five years of earning that status. Theoria Technical College is not currently accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

Financial Aid. Theoria Technical College does not currently participate in federal Title IV financial aid or Cal Grant programs. Students are responsible for tuition and fees through personal payment, approved institutional payment arrangements, employer sponsorship, private financing, or other non Title IV sources.

Costs, Outcomes, and Governing Documents. Current tuition, fees, refund provisions, program outcomes, and complete program requirements are stated in the 2026 Academic Catalog, Edition 2.9, and in the School Performance Fact Sheet. Both documents are provided to every prospective student prior to enrollment and are available on request. In the event of any conflict between this document and the Academic Catalog, the Academic Catalog governs.

Ready to Start?

A college with vision. A career with purpose.

Speak with an academic advisor to plan your pathway, request an evaluation of prior coursework, and set your first term start date.

EMAIL	academics@theoriatechnical.com
PHONE	(760) 487-8436, extension 3
APPLY	theoriatechnical.com/apply

Institutional Standing. Theoria Technical College is a private postsecondary institution organized under the laws of the State of California and approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. Theoria Technical College holds Candidacy status with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, granted February 3, 2026.

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