



Early Childhood Education Teacher (PK-3) Pathway



Information

Rio Hondo College students who are interested in becoming a **PK-3 Early Childhood Education Teacher in California (only teach Preschool to Grade 3)** must obtain a bachelor's degree and a [PK-3 Early Childhood Education \(ECE\) Specialist Instruction Credential](#).

Click or Scan the QR Code to view this clickable handout online



How long will it take to become an Early Childhood Education Teacher (PK-3)?

TRADITIONAL PATHWAY

Rio Hondo College

- 2 years as a full-time student - however this may vary from student to student
- Work on general education, major, and transfer requirements (please connect with a counselor to create a student ed plan)
- Apply for Transfer! (please connect with a counselor to confirm your transfer date)
 - Fall Transfer: Apply 1 year before in the Fall
 - Spring Transfer: Apply the Summer before in July/August

Transfer to 4-Year University to obtain your Bachelor's Degree

- 2 years as a full-time student - however this may vary from student to student
- Apply for a teacher preparation program 1 year before your last semester



GRADUATE AND BEGIN MAKING A DIFFERENCE AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEACHER, WORKING WITH CHILDREN FROM PRESCHOOL THROUGH 3RD GRADE

Attend and complete a PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential Program

- Programs can be 1-2 years

INTEGRATED PATHWAY

THERE IS NO INTERGRATED PATHWAY AT THIS TIME. ONLY TRADITIONAL/POST-BACC PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE.

What major should I choose if I want to become an Early Childhood Education Teacher (PK-3)?

You can major in anything you want - no specific bachelor's degree is required.

However, it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that you major in [Early Childhood Education AS-T](#) or [Child Development](#).

For transfer, we recommend transferring into a Child Development, Child and Adolescent Development, Human Development, Early Childhood Education, Child and Family Studies, Early Childhood Studies, Human Development and Family Science, Family Science or Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies as these can help you fulfill a credential requirement! ★

Please connect with a counselor for help on major selection.

Meet with a Counselor !!

It is very important that you meet with a counselor so we can best assist you in major selection and transfer exploration for a Bachelor's Degree program and/or Integrated Undergraduate Teacher Credentialing Program.

Education Counselors: Angelica Martinez, Irene Vu, & Emily Ramazzini

Early Childhood Education Teacher (PK-3) Credential Information (Specific to California)

The PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential authorizes the holder to teach all subjects in a self-contained general education classroom setting in grades preschool through grade three, including Transitional Kindergarten.

Can I teach English Learners (ESL)?

- YES! As long as you go through an approved Multiple Subject Preliminary Teacher Preparation Program in California.

Early Childhood Education Teacher (PK-3) Credential Requirements (Specific to California)

1. **A bachelor's degree or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.**
2. **Verify Subject Matter Competency (This can be can satisfied by any of the following per the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC)):**
 - a. Complete a bachelor's degree in any of the following:
 - i. Child Development• Child and Adolescent Development
 - ii. Human Development
 - iii. Early Childhood Education
 - iv. Child and Family Studies
 - v. Early Childhood Studies
 - vi. Human Development and Family Science
 - vii. Family Science
 - viii. Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies
 - b. Complete a bachelor's degree in any subject area **and** complete 24 semester units with a grade of C or higher, in approved early childhood education and/or child development.
 - i. Approved Rio Hondo College Courses: CD 102, CD 106, CD 110, CD 111, CD 114, CD 115, CD 118, CD 119, CD 120, CD 208, CD 224, CD 226, CD 229, CD 232, & ED 110.
3. **Complete a U.S. Constitution course:** You can complete this at Rio Hondo College ahead of time and it also counts as a General Education (GE) course! *POLS 110 - Government of the United States*
4. **Complete a Teacher Preparation Program.** Complete an approved multiple subject teacher preparation program by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).
5. Obtain a **formal recommendation for the credential** by the program.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credentia requirements

[CLICK HERE](#) for PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential FAQs

Bilingual Authorization

The [Bilingual Authorization](#) allows teachers to support and teach students who do not speak English as their first language. This means you would be able to teach in the following approved languages as long as you obtain the Bilingual Authorization for that specific language: Spanish, Filipino, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Japanese, Arabic, Armenian, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Hmong, Khmer, Punjabi, or Russian.

There are many programs out there and usually you can just add the Bilingual Authorization program/courses to the credential program you are completing if your university offers it in the language you are seeking.

Local Bachelor Degree Programs & PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential Programs

To see local Bachelor & PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential Programs, please go to our [Teacher Preparation Pathways website](#) and click on the Early Childhood Education Teacher (PK-3) box.

However, please connect with a counselor to help you on your future teacher journey!