

Early Childhood Education (PK-3) Teacher Pathway



Río 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**.

How long will it take to become an early childhood education teacher (PK-3)?

There are two different pathways at this time:

TRADITIONAL PATHWAY

INTEGRATED PATHWAY

Río Hondo College

- Two years as a full-time Río Hondo 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 education plan)
- Apply for Transfer! (please connect with a counselor to confirm your transfer date):
 - Fall Transfer – Apply one year before, in the fall
 - Spring Transfer – Apply the summer before, in July/August

Transfer to four-year university to obtain your bachelor's degree

- Two years as a full-time student—however, this may vary by student
- Apply for a teacher preparation program one year before your last semester

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

- Programs typically take one to two years to complete

Transfer to a university to obtain your combined bachelor's degree + credential through an Integrated Undergraduate Teacher Credentialing Program

- Two to three years as a full-time student; timing may vary by student
- Once you complete your program, you will graduate with **BOTH** your bachelor's degree and PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential

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 and Emily Ramazzini

Click or scan the QR code to view the clickable handout online on our Teacher Preparation Pathways website:
gorio.page/teacher-pathways



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 a PK-3 Teaching 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 satisfied by any of the following per the California 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 Río 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 and ED 110.
3. Complete a U.S. Constitution course: You can complete this at Río Hondo College ahead of time and it also counts as a General Education (GE) course (POLS C1000/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 Credential 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 at gorio.page/teacher-pathways and click on the Early Childhood Education Teacher (PK-3) box. In addition, please connect with a counselor to help you on your future teacher journey!