



COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF RHODE ISLAND

**ECE Professional Development Credit Award
Frequently Asked Questions**

To provide more information on this credit opportunity, this FAQ's document has been created to assist faculty and students in better understanding what is involved, who is eligible, and how the process works.

What is the ECE PD Credit Award?

In 2022-2023, the Community College of Rhode Island participated in a study to determine if courses within the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program would be equivalent to high-quality professional development completed by members of the workforce. After a comprehensive alignment to 11 ECE courses, CCRI concluded that several courses demonstrated a strong alignment between SLO's and the outcomes of various PD trainings. These results generated a newly established Standardized Credit Award (SCA) for 3 elective course credits in one of the following classes:

- HMNS 1080: Health, Nutrition, and the Young Child
- HMNS 2140: Guiding Children's Behavior
- HMNS 2190: Infant-Toddler Methods & Materials

In addition, eligible participants may qualify for 3 required course credits in one of the following classes:

- HMNS 2070: Characteristics and Needs of Special Populations
- HMNS 2120: Curriculum for Young Children

Why are other ECE electives not eligible for the PD credit award?

Over 100 trainings/PD were included in the 2022-2023 alignment review and included subjects such as Social-Emotional Development, Family Engagement, Health and Nutrition, Child Assessment etc. Of importance when assessing the course outcomes to various PD opportunities was the degree of alignment between the training content and CCRI course content/outcomes. The following scale was used to determine how little or how much a training outcome and course outcome aligned:

1-Minimal Evidence: The course and PD outcomes are not a match

2-Moderate Evidence: The course and PD outcomes have some level of equivalency

3-Strong Evidence: The course and PD outcomes are closely matched

Because all elective courses did not demonstrate a strong alignment, these courses would not be eligible for the SCA. While some classes may have contained content also featured in PD, the degree of association with CCRI's outcomes and the training was not enough to warrant college credits.

How do eligible participants in PD receive the credit award?

Important Note: If a PD participant is new to CCRI or has not attended CCRI for two years, they will need to submit a new CCRI student application to activate/reactivate their student status BEFORE moving forward with the steps below. This process can be completed by using the following link:

<https://ccri.edu/oes/admissions/apply/>.

- 1) The first step in this process is for the participants to do an inventory of their own professional development experiences and match this with the **CCRI ECE Standardized Credit Award** checklists. These forms give a comprehensive listing of trainings which are required for the participant to have completed to receive the 3 elective course and/or required course credits.
- 2) Once participants have determined their own eligibility, they will fill out the form and check off trainings completed. Proof of training completion will be required once the participant is ready to submit this form. (Proof of training may include individual, specific PD certificates, a letter or email from the PD vendor, a letter or email from the PD trainer, and/or a letter or email from the participant's supervisor demonstrating completion of specific PD at a work event, such as a staff meeting). Note: If a participant is submitting a letter or email from their supervisor, please include the name and contact information of the supervisor.
- 3) Next, eligible participants will forward their **CCRI ECE PD Credit Award** checklist(s) and PD documentation to Nicole Sheldon (njsheldon@ccri.edu) for processing.
- 4) The final step is for CCRI to verify the checklist and initiate the credit award. A Credit Award Form will be sent to you via email for your e-signature. Once processed, credits are posted to the student's academic transcript and can be viewed on Degree Works (please use the following link if you are new to the Degree Works system): <https://www.ccri.edu/oes/records/dw/>

Is there a maximum number of credits I can receive for my PD experiences?

At this time, eligible participants can earn 3 credits for PD in 1 of 3 elective courses, HMNS 1080: Health, Nutrition, and the Young Child, HMNS 2140: Guiding Children's Behavior or, HMNS 2190-Infant & Toddler Methods and Materials.

In addition, eligible participants can earn 3 credits for PD in 1 of 2 required courses, HMNS 2070: Characteristics and Needs of Special Populations or, HMNS 2120: Curriculum for Young Children.

This totals up to 6 college credits for eligible participants who have PD experiences.

What is the timeframe for eligibility for the ECE PD Credit Award?

Early childhood PD participants are eligible for the ECE PD Credit Award from PD taken in 2019 through 2029. This means that participants may use trainings taken from 2019 to present and be intentional about the PD they will take in the future to qualify for this award.

What if I have PD that is not included on the CCRI ECE PD Credit Award checklist? Would this still qualify?

No, only the PD listed on the credit award form is eligible for CCRI credits. Please visit www.ccri.edu/priorlearning/ece to determine your eligibility for other Credit for Prior Learning opportunities.

Can I use PD that I have earned from other states at CCRI for the ECE PD Credit Award?

No, at this time only the PD listed on the credit award checklist is eligible for CCRI credits. However, you may be able to participate in some of these offerings during the eligible period listed above and then qualify.

If I earn the ECE PD Credit Award, can I apply these credits to a major other than ECE?

The credits earned through this credit award are for specific HMNS courses. The credit award can be applied to programs of study that require the specific HMNS course you are awarded, such as the AA in Early Childhood Education and Child Development. This credit award can also be used toward programs of study that require general electives, such as the AA in General Studies.

Each program at CCRI has an overview of the classes needed to complete the credential. For more information, refer to the following link: <https://ccri.edu/programs/>.

How do I use the ECE PD Credit Award at CCRI?

There are many different program options available in ECE at CCRI. Once your paperwork for this SCA is processed, the credits earned for PD will be applied toward the ECE Certificate and/or Associate degree programs. Students do not need to do anything as these credits will appear on Degree Works once approved. This will put the student one step closer towards a credential in early childhood education. For more information on program options in ECE, please visit the following link: <https://ccri.edu/hmns/>

Does CCRI have other options for Credit for Prior Learning that I can apply for?

Yes, additional Credit for Prior Learning options can be explored at www.ccri.edu/priorlearning. CPL options directly related to ECE can be explored at www.ccri.edu/priorlearning/ece.

Does CCRI accept transfer credits from another college that I can apply towards an ECE credential?

Yes! The college values experience in higher education from other institutions. Transfer credits are awarded to students who have satisfactorily completed courses which are comparable classes at CCRI. Students are able to work with an advisor to help navigate this process. For more information or to get started on transfer credits, use the following link: <https://www.ccri.edu/oes/admissions/transfers/>

Can I enroll in other classes at CCRI after earning the ECE credit award?

Yes, students can take additional classes that build upon the credits earned for the ECE PD Credit Award. Classes run year-round and are offered for 14 weeks in the Fall and Spring semesters and two separate 6-week sessions in the Summer, as well. Human Services faculty and academic advisors are available to assist new and returning students with course selection and availability questions.

Are classes online or in-person?

Classes at CCRI are offered in many different learning formats and locations. Face-to-face classes are offered at the Warwick, Lincoln, Providence, and Newport campuses during the week on different days and times. Online classes are available 24/7 to students who prefer learning remotely. There are also hybrid classes available for students who would like to meet in-person some weeks and work online as well.

Who do I contact for more information on the credit award?

Please contact Nicole Sheldon, Prior Learning Coordinator at:

(401) 825-2084 or njsheldon@ccri.edu (email is preferred)

Who do I contact for more information on courses in ECE at CCRI?

Please contact Courtney Read, Associate Professor at:

(401) 301-4438 or ecread@ccri.edu

Please contact Carol Patnaude, Professor at:

(401) 595-3425 cpatnaude@ccri.edu