

Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD)
Associate in Arts, Elementary Education (AA-EE) Degree
2026-2027

Description

The Maricopa County Community College District Associate in Arts, Elementary Education (AAEE) degree requires a minimum of 60 semester credits and a maximum of 64 semester credits for the program of study. A minimum grade point average of 2.0 (4.0 scale) and grades of “C” or better in all courses are required to earn the degree. The AAEE degree is governed by the MCCCD General Academic Policies for Transfer Degrees. Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for the corresponding 8101 AAEE. A minimum grade point average of 2.0 (4.0 scale) and grades of “C” or better are required in all courses to earn the degree. The AA degree is governed by the MCCCD General Academic Policies for Degrees Designed for University Transfer.

The Associate in Arts, Elementary Education degree includes the following components:

- I. Plan Course Requirements
- II. Plan Course Electives
- III. General Education
- IV. MCCCD Requirements

Purpose of the Degree

The Associate in Arts, Elementary Education (AAEE) provides the first two years of a four-year curriculum for students who plan to transfer to an Elementary Education or Special Education program in a higher education institution. Upon completion of the AAEE, a student may pursue employment as a classroom instructional aide. After completing a bachelor’s degree, a student may pursue a career as an elementary teacher or a special education teacher. Foundational education courses and discipline specific courses are designed to provide future teachers with the knowledge and skills related to educational philosophies, policies, attitudes, behaviors, and instruction in order to effectively perform the

duties associated with the position of a classroom teacher. Students will participate in classroom field experiences to connect theory with practice. With further education or certification, students may pursue employment in the field of education in a number of careers, including but not limited to classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, educational administrator, instructional designer, instructional technologist, instructional coordinator, and educational counselor. The AAEE is also embedded within the Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education and Special Education (BAEE/SPED) offered by the Maricopa Community Colleges.

Degree Requirements

The requirements for the Associate in Arts in Elementary Education follow. The following websites identify the courses that apply to the different General Education Curriculum (Arizona General Education Curriculum) and the AGECEC matrix. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) credit may be applied toward Plan Course Prerequisites, General Education, Plan Course Requirements, Plan Course Electives, and General Electives that count toward the student's elected degree. Some restrictions may apply depending on the specific program of study (see Credit For Prior Learning Administrative Regulation 2.2.4). [Course sequences are available](#) to assist with term by term planning.

I. Plan Course Requirements Minimum _____ 13 Credits

- BPC110 Computer Usage and Applications OR
- CIS105 Survey of Computer Information Systems OR
- EDU/EED115 IDigital Literacy for Teaching and Learning in Education (**recommended**) _____ 3 Credits
- EDU222 Introduction to the Exceptional Learner _____ 3 Credits
- EDU230 Cultural Diversity in Education _____ 3 Credits
- MAT256 Investigating Quantity: Number, Operations, and Numeration Systems _____ 4 Credits
- MAT257 Investigating Geometry, Probability, and Statistics _____ 0-4 Credits

Note: MAT257 is required for Maricopa, NAU, and U of A bachelor's degree. MAT257 should only be bypassed if transferring to ASU

II. Plan Course Electives_____Minimum 6 Credits

A total of six (6) semester credits are required to satisfy the Arizona Professional Teacher Standards: three (3) credits in an additional Education (EDU) course and three (3) credits in Content Area Electives.

Courses must transfer to all public Arizona universities as elective credit, departmental elective, or equivalent to a university course as indicated in the [Arizona Course Equivalency Guide](#) in effect when the course is taken. Courses identified as non-transferable in the Arizona Course Equivalency Guide cannot be used to satisfy this requirement.

Select one (1) additional EDU course

(other than EDU221, EDU222, EDU230 or EDU250)_____3 Credits

Recommended:

EDU220 Introduction to Serving English Language Learners (ELL)

EDU236 Classroom Relationships

EDU/HUM/STO292 The Art of Storytelling

Choose any combination from the following list of courses and prefixes to total three (3) credits of additional coursework. Course(s) selected must be different from those used to fulfill a requirement of the AGEC and/or those used to fulfill Plan Course Requirements.

Content Area Electives:

Select a total of three (3) credits from the following options_____3 Credits

ARH+++ Any ARH Art Humanities course(s)

ART+++ Any ART Art course(s)

BPC+++ Any BPC Business-Personal Computers course(s)

CFS/ECH176 Child Development

CFS205 Human Development

CIS+++ Any CIS Computer Information Systems course(s)

ECN+++ Any ECN Economics course(s)

EDU+++ Any EDU Education course(s) (except EDU221, EDU222, EDU230, and EDU250)

EED215 Early Learning: Health, Safety, Nutrition and Fitness OR
CFS123 Health and Nutrition in Early Childhood Settings AND
CFS125 Safety in Early Childhood Settings

ENG+++ Any ENG English course(s)

ENH+++ Any ENH English Humanities course(s)

GCU+++ Any GCU Cultural Geography course(s)

GPH+++ Any GPH Physical Geography course(s)

HIS+++ Any HIS History course(s)

MAT+++ Any MAT Mathematics course(s) higher than MAT142 (except MAT256 and MAT257)

MHL+++ Any MHL Music: History/Literature course(s)

MTC+++ Any MTC Music: Theory/Composition course(s)

POS+++ Any POS Political Science course(s)

THE+++ Any THE Theatre course(s)

THF+++ Any THF Theatre and Film course(s)

THP+++ Any THP Theatre Performance/Production course(s)

Any Foreign Language course(s)

Any Natural Science course(s)

III. General Education _____ Minimum 35 Credits

The AA-EE degree requires the completion of the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) at a minimum of 35 credits (32 if **Written Communication [WCM]** is met by a single transfer course). Courses applied to meet AGEC requirements vary by emphasis. Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis and credit minimums.

A single course can simultaneously count between the AGEC and the Plan Course Prerequisites, Plan Course Requirements, MCCCDC Requirements, and Plan Course Electives, but its credits are only counted once toward the total for the degree.

Courses with different credit systems (quarter hours, trimester, units) are converted to semester credit hours as outlined in MCCCDC Administrative Regulation 2.2.4. A deficiency in an AGEC category due to quarter-hour or other credit system application must be recovered by additional credits within any requirement area of the AGEC as applicable to a total of 35 AGEC credits overall (or 32 credits overall if a student transfers in a single course from an Arizona public university that fulfills the Written Communication requirement).

In cases where students have a certified AGEC from another public Arizona community or tribal college with fewer than 35 credits, credits must be recovered within any requirement area of the degree to meet the minimum credits to graduate. Students who have received a certified AGEC, independently or within another degree, before Fall 2026 from MCCCDC or another Arizona public institution will not need to complete Oral Communication [OCM] or Institutions in the Americas [IAM] designations, and credits must be recovered within any requirement area of the degree to meet the minimum credits to graduate.

AGEC designations are subject to change. See AGEC matrix for each course's value(s) in the semester it is taken. The minimum **Quantitative Reasoning [QNR]** and **Natural Science [NSI]** requirements for the awarding of the AGEC, when not specified by the degree requirements, may be fulfilled with any course(s) that meet the designation. Students are urged to refer to university requirements and academic advisors from both institutions to be certain that all their selected coursework is applicable to the requirements of their intended transfer degree and will not require additional general education coursework to be fulfilled upon transfer.

A. Written Communication [WCM]_____6 Credits

- ENG101 or ENG107 AND
- ENG102 or ENG108

Note: The 6-credit requirement may be met with fewer credits if a student has transfer credit from ASU, NAU or UA for a single course that meets [WCM] in full.

B. Oral Communication [OCM]_____3 Credits

Recommended: COM225 Public Speaking

C. Quantitative Reasoning [QNR]_____3 Credits

Requires a course in

- College Mathematics (MAT140, MAT141, MAT142, MAT145, MAT146) or
- College Algebra (MAT150, MAT151, MAT152, MAT155, MAT156) or
- Higher mathematical level [QNR] approved General Education Course with a MAT prefix, not included MAT206.

The minimum math Quantitative Reasoning [QNR] requirement for graduation defaults to the lowest base-level math, as identified above. Some emphasis may require a specific or higher mathematical-level Quantitative Reasoning [QNR] course; refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for specific Quantitative Reasoning [QNR] emphasis math requirements by emphasis.

D. Arts and Humanities [AHM]_____6 Credits

(AGEC designations are subject to change. See AGECEC matrix for each course's value(s) in the semester it is taken.)

1) Select one of the following courses:

- ARH100 Introduction to Art OR
- ARH101 Prehistoric through Gothic Art OR
- ARH102 Renaissance through Contemporary Art OR
- DAH100 Introduction to Dance OR
- DAH201 World Dance Studies OR

- DAH250 Dance in Popular Culture OR
- MHL140 Survey of Music History OR
- MHL145 American Jazz and Popular Music OR
- MHL146 Survey of Broadway Musicals OR
- MHL153 Rock Music and Culture OR
- THE111 Introduction to Theatre OR
- THE220 Modern Drama

AND

2) Select one of the following courses

- EDU/ENH291 Children's Literature (**Recommended**) OR
- ENH110 Introduction to Literature OR
- ENH241 American Literature Before 1860 OR
- ENH242 American Literature After 1860 OR
- HUM250 Ideas and Values in the Humanities: Early Civilizations to the Renaissance OR
- HUM251 Ideas and Values in the Humanities: Renaissance to the Contemporary World

E. Social and Behavioral Sciences [SCB]_____6 Credits

(AGEC designations are subject to change. See AGECEC matrix for each course's value(s) in the semester it is taken.)

1) EDU221 Introduction to Education AND

2) Select one of the following

- CFS/ECH176 Child Development (**Recommended**) OR
- CFS205 Human Development OR
- ECN211 Macroeconomic Principles OR
- ECN212 Microeconomic Principles OR
- GCU121WG World Geography: People, Places, and Culture OR
- HIS104 United States History 1865 to Present OR
- PSY101 Introduction to Psychology

F. Institutions in the Americas [IAM]_____3 Credits

- May be fulfilled by GCU/POS113, HIS103 or POS110, refer to [Current Programs](#) for [IAM] requirements

G. Natural Sciences [NSI]_____8 Credits

- The lecture course(s) selected for Natural Sciences [NSI] must include or be accompanied by the corresponding laboratory course for a total of four (4) credits each.

1. Life Sciences: Select four (4) credits of [NSI] in **Biology (BIO)**

AND

2. Physical Sciences or Earth/Space Sciences: Select four (4) credits of [NSI] from one of the following prefixes:

AGS, ASM, AST, CHM, GPH, GLG, PHS, or PHY

Note: Students are advised to check with the university they plan to attend, as specific requirements for lab sciences may vary.

IV. MCCCDC Requirements_____Minimum 1 Credit

- FYE101 (1 Credit): Introduction to College, Career, and Personal Success

OR

FYE103 (3 Credits): Exploration to College, Career, and Personal Success

- See Administrative Regulation: For more details, see the General Graduation Requirements [Administrative Regulation 2.3.9](#).

Total_____60-64 Credits

64 semester credits is the maximum accepted toward most degree programs at Arizona's public universities. Some exceptions apply; consult with an academic advisor for additional transfer pathways.