

**NORTHERN LIGHTS COLLEGE  
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE  
PROGRAM INFORMATION AND COMPLETION GUIDE**

**Program Name:** Early Childhood Education and Care  
**Credential/Certification:** Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care  
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**Program Description:** The Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Program at Northern Lights College (NLC) provides opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to work with young children and their families in early learning settings in British Columbia. A variety of delivery methods enables students to remain in their home communities and to integrate theoretical and practical experiences through full- or part-time studies. The program prepares students to apply for various BC ECE Registry certificates to practice.

**Admission Requirements:**

A. Standard admission requirements are as follows:

1. Completion of a Northern Lights College Application Form and payment of the related fee.

2. Copy of government-issued ID with current full legal name.

3a. Domestic students and students from countries that practice Standard Written English must have official transcripts demonstrating successful completion of one of the following English courses with a "C" or higher: English Studies 12, English 12, English Literature 12, English 12 First Peoples, English 050, English 099., or an equivalent course.

OR

3b. Any university-level English course with a "C" grade or higher.

OR

3c. Completion of the NLC Writing Assessment with 100-level course placement.

4. Submission of completed Program Questionnaire.
5. Comprehensive letter stating background, interest, and goals in taking the program.
6. Two current letters of reference written and dated within a year of application, attesting to personal suitability for working with young children.
7. Current assurance of good health from a physician. The relevant form is included in the ECEC application package available on the program website.

**B. International Students and Domestic Students Who Received Their Secondary Education in a Language other than English:**

1. In lieu of Item A3 above, international students and domestic students who received their secondary education in French or in a language other than English require minimum IELTS Academic scores of 6.0 overall with no band less than 6.0. On-campus students who received their secondary education in a language other than English are strongly encouraged to attend Professional Communications Seminars in the first semester of their program.

**C. Dual credit students:**

1. In lieu of Item A3 above, dual credit students may submit secondary school transcripts indicating successful completion of English 11 and enrollment in an acceptable Grade-12-level English course with an interim grade of "C" or higher.

**D. Students seeking an Early Childhood Educator Assistant (ECEA) Certificate from the BC ECE Registry:**

1. Item A3 above may be waived for applicants in this category; however, such applicants are advised to be aware of the standard requirement for Grade-12-Level English proficiency.
2. In lieu of Item A5 above, applicants in this category merely need to indicate an intent to take HDEC102 or HDEC 103 for the purposes of acquiring an ECE Assistant Certificate to Practice from the BC ECE Registry.
3. Students admitted under this category will be required to fulfill all standard admission criteria if they plan to enroll in additional Diploma coursework.

**Post-Admission Criminal Record Check:**

A valid Solicitor General Schedule B Criminal Record Check (CRC) ("works with children" or "works with children and vulnerable adults") is a non-course prerequisite required prior to registration in most of the ECEC Diploma courses.

Under no circumstances are students permitted to complete any practical work without having a CRC on file with NLC's Office of the Registrar. Failure to ensure a valid CRC is on file with the Office of the Registrar may result in a requirement to withdraw from the program.

Students are obligated to report any Schedule B criminal convictions that occur after they authorize a CRC but are still enrolled in NLC's Early Childhood Education and Care Program. Failure to do so may also result in a requirement to withdraw from the program.

Students who have completed a valid Schedule B CRC ("works with children" or "works with children and vulnerable adults") for another organization may share their results with Northern Lights College by completing the Sharing Form. Note that CRCs must be renewed if they expire before the program is completed.

Please see NLC's Criminal Record Check procedures for instructions on how to complete a CRC.

**Length of Program:** (weeks and total hours)

The ECEC Diploma program may be completed over a two-year period of full-time studies that may include Spring and Summer semesters. Part-time study is also an option. For both full- and part-time students, program completion time may vary depending on the availability of courses and on individual course selection.

The program consists of 16 academic/ theory courses (720 hours) and 4 practica courses (650 hours) for a total of 1370 hours.

Students planning on transferring to further post-secondary programs are encouraged to complete ENGL 100 Academic Writing in addition to the Diploma requirements.

**Program Intake:** (start/finish dates) September, January, May, July

**Available Seats:** Varies from course to course

**Application Deadline:** June 1 for fall semester courses beginning in September; October 1 for winter semester courses beginning in January; February 1 for Spring/Summer courses beginning in May or July.

**Career Prospects:**

- After successful completion of one of HDEC 101, 102, or 103 with a minimum grade of "C," students may apply to the BC ECE Registry for an Early Childhood Educator Assistant (ECEA) Certificate.
- After completing the first 15 courses listed under "Required Courses" below, students may apply to the BC ECE Registry for an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Certificate.

- Students who complete the full NLC ECEC Diploma will be eligible to apply to the BC ECE Registry for both an Early Childhood Educator Certificate and an Infant and Toddler Educator (ITE) Certificate or a Special Needs Educator (SNE) Certificate depending on their selection of a final practicum course.
- NLC diploma graduates may complete the alternate final practicum course as ongoing professional development in order to apply for the remaining BC ECE Registry certificate to practice.
- For up-to-date information on licensing requirements, including an additional required 500 hours of work experience (post diploma), please visit <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ece/> .
- Early Childhood Educators with BC ECE Registry certificates to practice may be employed as educators, supervisors, managers, directors, or administrators of licensed group childcare centres; in Aboriginal early care and learning programs; or in strong start programs, young parent programs, drop-in programs, home visit programs, licensed family centres, out of school care, or preschool programs.
- Early Childhood Educators have also found employment as supported child development workers, holiday destination children's program workers, nannies, and respite providers.
- With additional relevant education (e.g., a Child and Youth Care Degree, Social Work Degree, or an Early Childhood Education graduate degree), Early Childhood Educators may find work as child development counsellors, family resource centre coordinators, child care resource and referral consultants/co-ordinators, licensing officers, ECE researchers, or ECE instructors.

### **Affiliations/Partnerships:**

1. Northern Lights College has a Memorandum of Agreement with Le Collège Éducacentre for delivery of NLC's ECEC Diploma program to French-speaking students.
2. Graduates of NLC's English version of the ECEC Diploma are eligible for direct admission to the Justice Institute of British Columbia's Advanced Specialty Certificate in Community Care Licensing. Advanced standing is also granted for HDEC 104 Human Development 2.
3. Students wishing to ladder into other BC post-secondary citation or degree programs should contact the NLC Program Chair for more information (e.g. Behaviour Intervention Citation, Child and Youth Care Degree, or Early Childhood Education Degree).

**Location:** NLC's ECEC Diploma program is typically completed through a blended model of online, teleconference, and web/videoconference delivery. Face-to-face course offerings are available within the Northern Lights College region or other provincial regions depending on student enrollment or special-project funding.

Students may complete practica in their home communities and/or worksites provided options exist for acceptable placements and opportunities to explore diverse experiences and philosophies can be achieved. Students unable to locate suitable

practica placements in their home community may need to relocate to another community for one or more of the practica.

Note that some courses require regular access to working with children in an Early Care and Learning Environment.

Students and/or their employers are advised to review NLC's ECEC Admissions web page or contact [ECECPracticaPlanning@nlc.bc.ca](mailto:ECECPracticaPlanning@nlc.bc.ca) for more information on workplace practica options and criteria.

**Additional Requirements/Supplies:** (fees, supplies, materials)

- Instruction Related Fees - covering technology costs & assistance; publishing royalties/readings
- Textbooks and Licenses for Electronic texts
- Flash drives
- Computer or Laptop (IPads or iPhones are not sufficient)
- High-speed Internet
- Teleconferencing: A landline is preferred; if using a cell phone the package should include the ability to call toll free - Costs vary according to carrier
- First Aid acceptable as per the Child Care Licensing Regulation, Schedule C [http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/332\\_2007#ScheduleA](http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/332_2007#ScheduleA)
- For a detailed cost breakdown for the program, please visit the website at <http://www.nlc.bc.ca/Admissions/Early-Childhood-Education-and-Care-Admissions>

**Eligibility for Canada Student Loans:** (Yes or No)

Yes

**Required Minimum Grade:** (overall and/or minimum within a course)

60 % or C in all courses

**Residency Requirement:** (percentage of courses which must be taken at NLC)

25% (i.e., a minimum of five courses)

**Required Courses:** (list courses required to complete credential and total hours for each course)

Term 1

HDEC 100 - 3 credits	Essential Skills for Human Service Workers (45 hours)
HDEC 101 - 3 credits	Human Development 1 (45 hours)
HDEC 102 - 3 credits	Health, Safety and Nutrition (45 hours)
HDEC 103 - 3 credits	Guiding and Caring (45 hours)
ECED 109A - 3 credits	Practicum 1 (130 hours)

Term 2

ECED 101 - 3 credits	Principles and Practices 1 (45 hours)
HDEC 121 - 3 credits	Interpersonal Communications (45 hours)
ECEC 100 - 3 credits	Curriculum 1 (45 hours)
HDEC 104 - 3 credits	Human Development 2 (45 hours)
ECED 110 - 3 credits	Practicum 2 (130 hours)

Term 3:

ECEC 201 - 3 credits	Building Professional-Family Partnerships (45 hours)
ECEC 202 - 3 credits (45 hours)	Administration and Leadership in Early Childhood Education
ECEC 200- 3 credits	Curriculum 2 (45 hours)
ECED 150 - 3 credits	The Early Childhood Education Professional (45 hours)
ECED 111 - 4 credits	Practicum 3 (165 hours)

Term 4

ECEC 203 - 3 credits	Current Perspectives on Practice (45 hours)
ECED 203A - 3 credits	Development 3 Infant and Toddlers (45 hours)
ECED 207 - 3 credits	Curriculum 3 Infants and Toddlers (45 hours)
ECED 215 - 3 credits hours)	Curriculum 4 Working with Children with Diverse Abilities (45 hours)
ECED 208 - 4 credits	Practicum -- Infants and Toddlers (225 hours)
Or	
ECED 210 - 4 credits	Practicum -- Diverse Abilities (225 hours)

Note: An NLC Education Assistant (EA) Certificate graduate who applies to NLC's ECEC Diploma Program will have the following notation placed on their transcript: "Exemption from ECED109A and ECED150 based on completion of the NLC EA Certificate."