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Choosing an ELCC Post-Secondary Program

A Toolkit for Alberta's Early Childhood Educators



What to Look for in a Program

- Approved for Alberta child care certification.
- Includes practicum/field placement with structured supervision
- Taught by qualified instructors with ELCC experience.
- Uses Alberta's *Flight* curriculum framework and reflects provincial standards.
- Offers credit transfer and pathways to higher credentials.



Are Student Supports in Place?

- Academic advising and student supports.
- Affordable tuition and clear fee structures. Student loans, grants, or bursaries are available.
- Flexible delivery methods that suit your needs.
- Mental health and counselling services



Does the Program Offer the Student Life You Want?

- Residence or housing assistance
- Recreational facilities and wellness programming
- Student Union advocacy or leadership
- Clubs, events, and opportunities for social connection



What to Watch For

- Placements with little supervision or unclear learning outcomes
- Practicum outside licensed settings or with no/unclear oversight
- Credits that don't transfer to other institutions.
- Tuition seems low but includes unclear or unexpected fees.
- Program not recognized for certification in Alberta.

Is This a Good Fit for You?

Use this self-reflection checklist before registering:

	YES	NO
Does the credential match my career goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the field placement well-structured, supervised, and meaningful?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are instructors qualified and engaged with current practice?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are credits transferable if I want to continue my education after?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the full cost, with financial supports, clear and affordable?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the program format, schedule, and location fit my life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are student supports robust and accessible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do I understand the program's delivery method and schedule?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will I feel connected through student life (housing, clubs, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>