



Consortium Principles

The Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) is a consortium of Illinois higher education institutions that work collaboratively toward our shared goal of creating more accessible and equitable early childhood higher education opportunities. Our work will create more seamless educational pathways for early childhood student access and success, benefitting not only the students but leading to a strong, well-qualified workforce to better support providers and employers in the state, young children and families in their care, and the broader workforce generally.

The following principles are the basis for which the Consortium will interact and operate.

Principle 1: Center Student Success

- The first priority of the Consortium is student success.
- The Consortium serves early childhood higher education students at all levels and institutional settings.
- Consortium members acknowledge and seek to address historical and current barriers to degree completion and licensure.
- Consortium members operate collaboratively to provide streamlined paths to advancing early childhood credentials and/or degrees.
- The Consortium gives priority focus to meeting the needs of the incumbent early childhood workforce.

Principle 2: Share Leadership

- All members contribute to and benefit from the Consortium.
- These Principles are the foundation for Consortium policies.
- Consortium governance is shared at all levels (administrators, faculty, etc.)
- Decisions are made considering the interests of students, employers, and all other stakeholders.
- The Consortium is a learning community, a forum for creative problem solving and innovative solutions.
- We strive for agreement through consensus building.
- Communication is the first step in resolving conflict.

Principle 3: Behave as Equals

- Consortium members consciously share power and decisions about the work.
- Communication among and between members is essential.
- We value the expertise of faculty teaching at all member institutions.
- We recognize and honor the learning and competencies of students (regardless of home institution).
- Students admitted to ECACE programs are accepted by all members for enrollment in Consortium courses, and institutions shall document course records as appropriate.

Principle 4: Respect Consortium Agreements While Accommodating Institutional Differences

- We respect and support each member's accreditation status and Gateways entitlement.
- We respect and accommodate institutional differences in things like faculty workload, administrative and internal financial procedures, admission requirements, and institutional culture.
- We work together, collaboratively, within our differences to develop policies, procedures, systems, and decisions that benefit students and the Consortium as a whole to ensure student success.

Principle 5: Simplify Student Navigation

- We strive to provide seamless pathways to credential attainment regardless of where within the Consortium students take courses.
- Differences in procedure from one institution to another are transparent to the learners.
- While home institutions have primary responsibility for student services, Consortium member teaching institutions provide supports so students can be successful.