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Opportunities to Earn Early Childhood Education Credentials and Degrees

Are you interested in going to college and earning a credential or degree in early childhood? Many supports are available, and higher education navigators can help you access them.

If you are currently working – or previously worked - in child care, preschool, Head Start or family child care in Illinois, opportunities are available to go to school with the supports you need to help you be successful.

Financial assistance is available for eligible teachers, assistants, directors and others to cover all tuition and fees and for other potential expenses, such as books, transportation, and child care at many of Illinois’ colleges and universities.

Illinois higher education institutions are redesigning to make it easier for you, the early childhood workforce, to enroll in programs created for you, through classes that are available when and in the format that works best for you. They are also hiring mentors to help you enroll in programs and be successful.

If you would like to be connected to a Higher Education Navigator who can walk you through the available opportunities, please complete the following survey and return to the local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency listed above with Attn: Higher Education Navigator.

First Name:	Last Name:
Address:	
City:	State:
Zip Code:	County in which you reside:
Phone #:	Email:
What is the primary language you use at home?	

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Gateways Registry #: _____

A Gateways to Opportunity Registry Member Number is a requirement for the scholarship to become a free Gateways Member enter <https://registry.ilgateways.com/> into your web browser or click on the link provided

Do you currently work in either a home or center-based early care and education (ECE) program? (e.g., child care, preschool, family child care, Head Start, etc.) (Circle one) Yes or No

If yes, please provide the program type (check one): Licensed Child Care Center Licensed Family Child Care
 License Exempt Child Care Center License Exempt Family Child Care
 Other type of ECE program _____

Have you previously worked in an ECE program? (Circle one) Yes or No

If yes, please provide the program type (check one): Licensed Child Care Center Licensed Family Child Care
 License Exempt Child Care Center License Exempt Family Child Care
 Other type of ECE program _____

Are you currently enrolled in or admitted to a college or university? Yes or No

If yes, what institution are you currently attending? _____

What degree are you working towards? _____

What is the highest level of education, license, and/or certificate you have completed? (check one)

HS Diploma or GED Associates Degree Bachelors Degree Masters Degree Professional Educator License
 Other _____

Do you currently hold a Gateways Credential? If yes, which one(s)

Are you working towards a Gateways Credential? If yes, which one?

Would you be interested in receiving a scholarship and financial supports for your enrollment in an early childhood education program? If yes, please provide the semester (i.e., Summer 2022) for which you would like to apply for an award: _____

