



NAEYC Standards and Accreditation Systems:

A Strategic Link for Articulation

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Our Conversation



- The Need for Articulation
- NAEYC Professional Preparation Standards
- NAEYC Accreditation/Recognition of Early Childhood Higher Education Programs
- The Strategic Link for Articulation
- Stories from the Field



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Articulation is a National Hot Topic

- Public Pre-k, Head Start, Pre-k – 12th grade or Birth – 3rd grade alignment
- Seamless career pathways, ladders or lattices
- Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant
- Quality Rating and Improvement Systems
- Stackable and portable credentials
- Financial and human capital loss associated with redundancy and lost credits

....and more



Articulation is Multifaceted

Many Directions

- Certificate to credit
- Prior learning to credit
- CDA to AA or BA
- AA to BA
- BA to AA
- Non-licensure to licensure
- 1+1+2
- 2+2

Many Beneficiaries

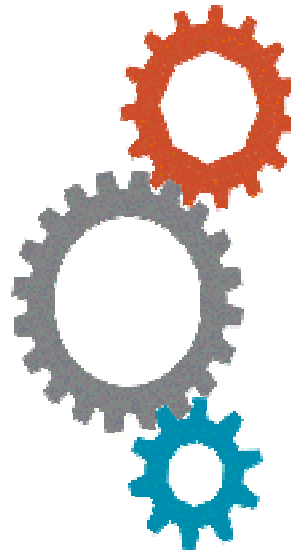
- Young children and their families
- ECE students and professionals
- Public/private funders
- ECE profession as a whole
- Taxpayers
- Institutions and faculty

Many Factors to Consider

- Policy supports
- Trust
- Stakeholder engagement
- Sustainability
- Student supports
- Learning outcomes***
- Quality assurance***

Many Drivers

- Faculty
- Institutions
- State and federal agencies
- Funders
- Students





Learning Outcomes and Quality Assurance Matter

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- What are the learning goals for students?
- What should students know when they complete this course or degree program?
- What should they be able to do?

QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Is the degree program being responsive to the needs of students and the local community? Are stakeholders engaged?
- How are students being prepared?
- What rich learning opportunities are provided for students to meet the learning outcomes?
- Are students meeting the learning outcomes? How are their knowledge and skills assessed?
- How is performance data being used? Is the program committed to continuous quality improvements?





Resources From NAEYC: Learning Outcomes and Quality Assurance

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- NAEYC Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation

QUALITY ASSURANCE

- NAEYC Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation
- NAEYC Recognition of Early Childhood Preparation Programs (BA+)





Resources From NAEYC: Learning Outcomes and Quality Assurance



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Let's Focus on the **Learning Outcomes:** NAEYC Standards for Professional Preparation

What should
tomorrow's
early childhood
professionals
know and be
able to do?



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NAEYC Standards Development Process

What some people think the process is....



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NAEYC Standards Development Process

What the process really is.....



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Let's Focus on the **Learning Outcomes:** NAEYC Standards for Professional Preparation

- **Standard 1:** Promote child development and learning
- **Standard 2:** Build family and community relationships
- **Standard 3:** Observe, document, and assess to support young children and families
- **Standard 4:** Use developmentally effective approaches
- **Standard 5:** Use content knowledge to build meaningful curriculum
- **Standard 6:** Become a professional
- **Standard 7/Criterion 5:** Field experiences in multiple settings across age groups

Note: Diversity, inclusion, technology, and the 0-8 focus are interwoven across standards.



Let's Shift Gears

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- NAEYC Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation



DONE



QUALITY ASSURANCE

- NAEYC Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation
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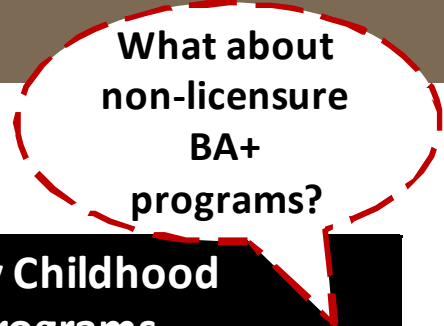
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Let's Focus on the **Quality:** NAEYC Accreditation and Recognition Systems

NAEYC Early Childhood <u>Associate Degree Accreditation</u>	NAEYC <u>Recognition of Early Childhood Professional Preparation Programs (mostly BA+ licensure programs)</u>
Launched in 2006	Launched in early 1980s
Associate degree level	Baccalaureate and graduate degree levels (in units seeking accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, formerly NCATE)
All accreditation decisions and policies made by an autonomous Commission	Recognition decision made by NAEYC reviewers and auditors
NAEYC reviewers conduct report review and site visit focused on the ECE program	NAEYC reviewers conduct remote report review; CAEP's site visit focuses on the entire unit
156 institutions in 30 states and territories have NAEYC accredited ECE programs; additional 115 in self-study	243 institutions in 38 states and territories have NAEYC recognized programs





Let's Focus on the **Quality**: NAEYC Accreditation and Recognition Systems



- How would you describe your program?
- What makes your program unique?
- What are your program's goals, philosophy, and conceptual framework?
- Who are your candidates and faculty?

- How are the NAEYC learning standards used to shape your program of studies?

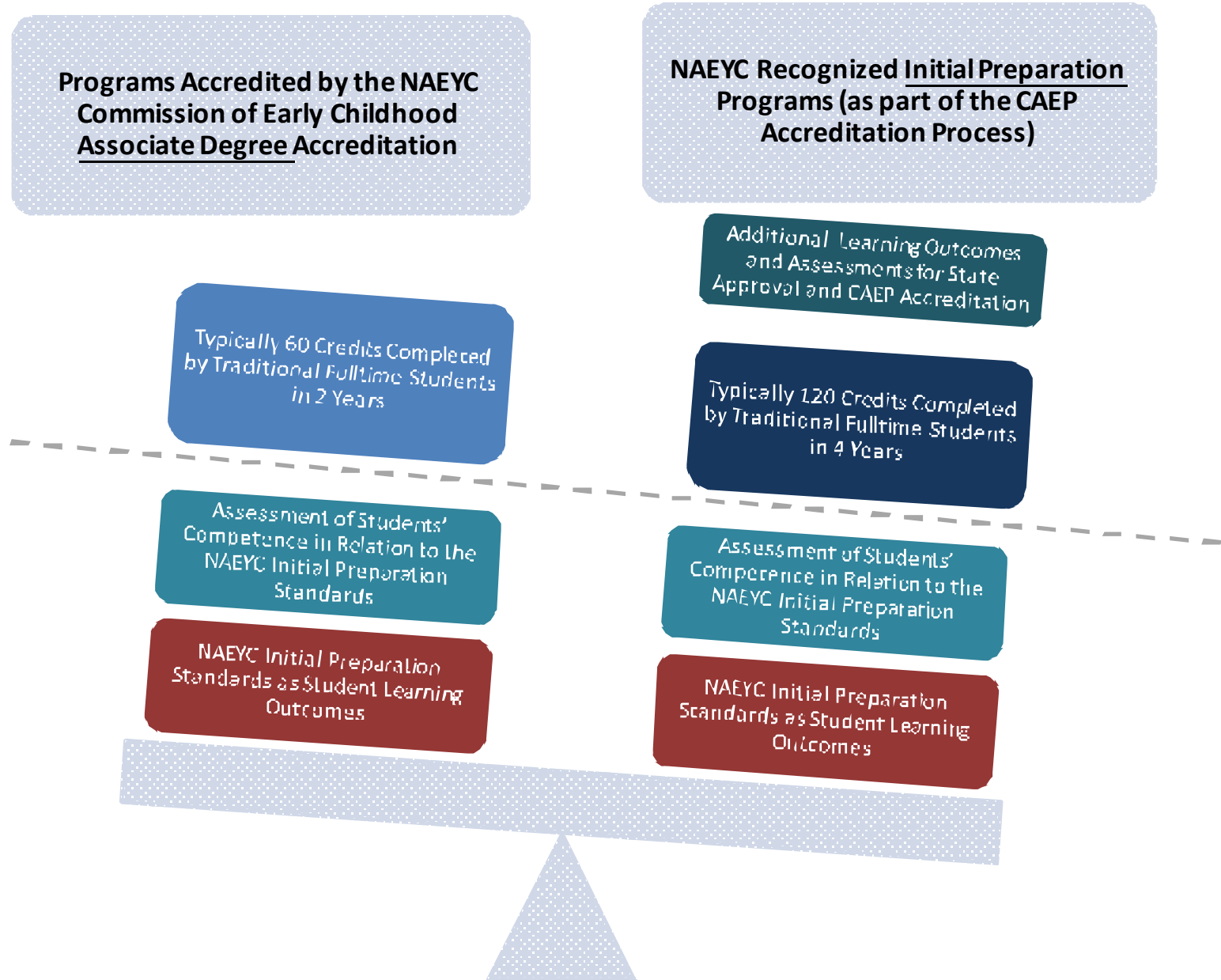
- What learning experiences provide opportunities for candidates to know, understand, and apply each standard?

- Which cluster of assessments collectively measure and show evidence of what all candidates know, understand, and can do in relationship to the NAEYC standards?
- Do their performance tasks reflect the depth and breadth of the key element of the standard?

- What does the data say about your candidates' performance in relationship to each standard?
- How is the data used to make program improvements?



Let's Focus on the **Quality:** NAEYC Accreditation and Recognition Systems



Let's Focus on the **Quality:** NAEYC Accreditation and Recognition Systems

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Meeting the NAEYC Standards Means:

- Providing a program of study grounded in the NAEYC standards
- Aligning assessment tools to collect and use data related to student performance on the NAEYC standards.
- Preparing early childhood professionals for a lifelong career, birth through age 8
- Preparing teachers for diversity & inclusion



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The Strategic Link to Articulation

The NAEYC professional preparation standards and accreditation systems can provide a common framework and shared expectations. Standards without standardization.

For example:

“Successful completers of *this degree or training program* know _____, understand _____, and are able to _____ in relations to the NAEYC standards. What about your degree, certificate, or training program?”



The Strategic Link to Articulation

The NAEYC professional preparation standards and accreditation systems focus on learning outcomes and evidence.

For example:

“Successful completers of *this course/program* know _____, understand _____, and are able to _____. This is how we assess their knowledge, comprehension, and application in relations to the NAEYC standards. What about your course/program?”



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The Strategic Link to Articulation

The NAEYC professional preparation standards and accreditation systems communicate a shared commitment to quality.

For example:

“Our degree program has demonstrated to an *external entity* that we meet national professional standards and are committed to continuous quality improvement. Does this help to alleviate some of the concerns you have about the quality of our program?”



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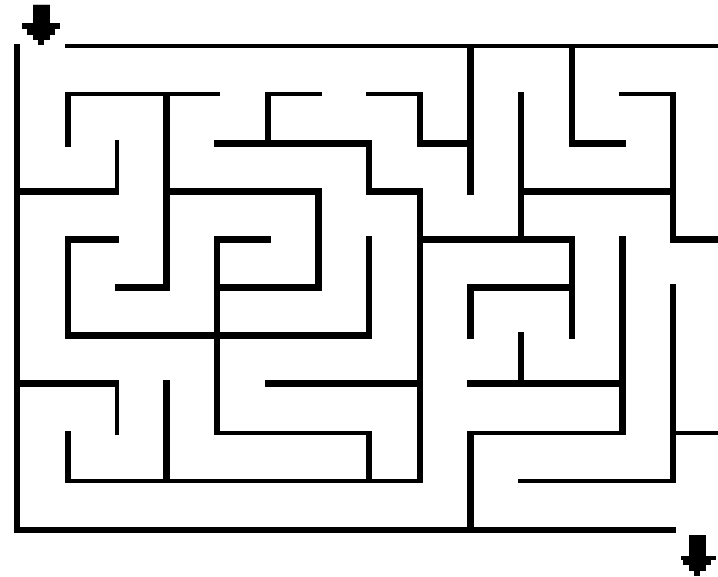


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The Articulation Connection

“...the **changing nature of our student population** – the swirling nature of their course-taking as they move between institutions, their episodic attendance patterns, and the substantial increase in the number of returning older students – requires enhanced attention to the policies and practices around transfer and articulation.

Traditional higher education should also realize that if **it does not respond to the needs of these students**, the emerging nontraditional sectors of higher education – online institutions and for-profit providers – will respond to them.”



David A. Longanecker
President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

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Stories from the Field



ALAMO
COLLEGES

ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE

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East Tennessee State University

Marica Mitchell on Behalf of:
Pamela Evanshen, EdD
Professor and Chair
Teaching and Learning Department
Claudius G. Clemmer College of Education
Johnson City, TN



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Alamo Colleges: St. Philip's College, TX



Context:

- San Antonio, Texas
- A.A.S. Early Childhood Studies accredited by NAEYC Commission
- 120 students enrolled
- Prepare graduates to work in all settings and sectors
- Full degree programs are also 100% online
- Federally designated as both a Historically Black College and a Hispanic-serving Institution
- Course offerings 8 week, 14 week and 16 weeks



Alamo Colleges: St. Philip's College, TX



Overview of Articulation Agreements:

- Accreditation status supported and helped sustain articulation agreements with 5 colleges in TX including a 100% online BA program
- Seamless 2+2 agreements
- New high school articulation initiative – high school teachers trained and approved as adjunct instructors so high school students can earn college credits
- Faculty from 4-year programs serve on St. Philip's College ECE advisory board



East Tennessee State University, TN



Context:

- Johnson City, TN
- Teacher education unit accredited by NCATE/CAEP and ECE program recognized by NAEYC
- Degree offerings include:
 - BS in ECE (PreK-3 Licensure and non-Licensure degrees)
 - MA in ECE (with concentration in Initial Licensure PreK-3, Master Teacher, or Researcher)
 - Early Childhood Education Emergent Inquiry Program (online master's certificate program)
 - PhD in Early Childhood Education
- 125 undergraduate and 65 graduate students enrolled
- Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Learning and Development on campus
- Two early learning programs for young children on campus, one is NAEYC accredited



East Tennessee State University, TN

Overview of Articulation Agreements:

- Articulation agreements with 7 community colleges in TN; 4 have NAEYC Commission accreditation
- New seamless 2+2 agreements with all community colleges through the Tennessee Transfer Pathway program
- Accreditation status of the two-year programs made the conversation and process easier
- 5/13 community colleges in the Tennessee Board of Regents system have NAEYC Commission accredited AAS in ECE programs
- Accreditation status of Blue Ridge Community College in neighboring NC supported articulation agreement; ETSU staff teach courses there and serve on their Advisory Board

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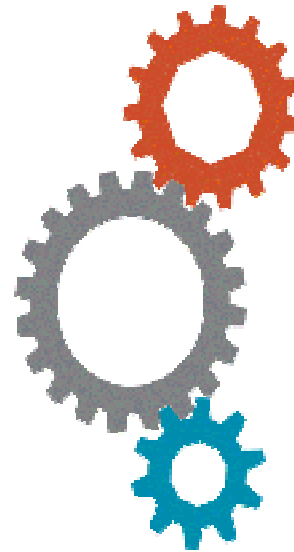
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Thank You & Keep in Touch!





Next Steps



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