Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

The CDA is a nationally recognized entry-level credential in early childhood education. Issued by the Council for Professional Recognition, it is designed for individuals who are working with young children in all settings.

The CDA will prepare you to meet the specific needs of children and work with parents and other adults to nurture children's physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth in a child development framework. The CDA is a mark of professionalism and gives assurance to parents and administrators that they have hired a competent individual to work with their children.

2016 Classes

Fall

ECED 150 Child Development II
August 29 - December 9, 2016, online

ECED 210 Play/Learning App to ECE
August 29 - December 9, 2016, Edinboro University

ECED 240 Children's Literature
August 29 - December 9, 2016, Edinboro University

Summer

ECED 150 Child Development II
July 11 - August 10, 2016, online

ECED 210 Play/Learning App to ECE
July 11 - August 10, 2016, online

Please complete the Edinboro University Special Student Application to register for a class. For more information, contact Beth A. Zewe at (814) 732-1420 or zewe@edinboro.edu.

Program Coordinators

Dr. Mary Jo Melvin and Professor Robin Howell, Department of Early Childhood and Reading

Tuition Assistance

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is offering the Rising STARS Tuition Assistance program to eligible Keystone STARS providers. This program pays 95% of tuition costs for eligible college coursework taken by early learning professionals, with a maximum benefit of $4,500 per individual each fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). The program covers tuition costs only, and does not include books, materials, or fees. The Rising STARS Tuition Assistance Program replaces the College Tuition Reimbursement Voucher Program. You can obtain an application on the PA Key Website www.pakeys.org.

To apply for the Rising STARS Tuition Assistance program, follow these simple steps:

• Individuals may apply through June 29, 2016
• To access the online application:
  • Log in to your www.pakeys.org account using the login tab on the top right of the homepage
  • Once logged in, select the “Voucher Requests” link on the left-hand side of your screen
  • Then click on the “Apply Online” link in the box on the upper right-hand corner of the screen and complete the application
CDA Competency Standards

The CDA Competency Standards are the national standards used to evaluate a caregiver’s performance with children and families during the CDA assessment process. The Competency Standards are divided into six Competency Goals, which are statements of a general purpose or goal for caregiver behavior. The Competency Goals apply to all child care settings.

The six goals are defined in more detail in the 13 Functional Areas, which describe the major tasks or functions that a caregiver must complete in order to carry out the Competency Goal. A Developmental Context, a brief overview of relevant child development principles, explains each Functional Area.

Although the six Competency Goals are the same for all settings (center-based, family child care, home visitor), the Functional Area definitions and sample behaviors differ for each setting and age group. The setting-specific materials available through the Council’s online bookstore include detailed information appropriate for each environment.

CDA Competency Standards and Functional Areas

Goal I. To establish and maintain a safe, healthy learning environment

1. Safe
2. Healthy
3. Learning Environment

Goal II. To advance physical and intellectual competence

4. Physical
5. Cognitive
6. Communicative
7. Creative

Goal III. To support social and emotional development and to provide positive guidance

8. Self
9. Social
10. Guidance

Goal IV. To establish positive and productive relationships with families

11. Families

Goal V. To ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participant needs

12. Program Management

Goal VI. To maintain a commitment to professionalism

13. Professionalism

There are six goals and 13 competencies (within the six goals). Goal 1 can be covered in ECED 150 (all three competencies). Goals 2 and 5 can be covered in ECED 210. Goals 3, 5, and 6 can be covered in ECED 240.

There are competency statements, pieces, and a statement of philosophy that must be compiled in a portfolio. At the end of the three courses, students receive verification of the three courses, or 120 hours. They must have a current first aid and pediatric CPR card in the portfolio. There is a verification visit by a professional development specialist for each student. Students must take an online test before getting a credential. The university would be responsible for helping with the compilation of the portfolio.

To learn more about the CDA, please visit the Council for Professional Recognition at www.cdacouncil.org/the-cda-credential.