

NC Early Care and Education Professional Certification Scale

Certification is an acknowledgement of an individual's verified level of educational achievement, based on a standardized scale. It is not permission to work. The following notes apply to multiple levels throughout the scale:

- "Focus" *generally* means coursework with extensive content related to children ages birth to five.
- General education, such as English, Math and Science, is coursework earned toward a two or four year degree.

Valid Period	Level	Education Required
5 yrs	13	Doctorate Degree plus or including at least 18 birth to five focused semester hours
5 yrs 5 yrs	12	Doctorate Degree plus or including at least 12 birth to five focused semester hours <i>or</i> Master's Degree plus or including at least 18 birth to five focused semester hours
5 yrs 5 yrs	11	Master's Degree plus or including at least 12 birth to five focused semester hours <i>or</i> Bachelor's Degree plus or including at least 18 birth to five focused semester hours
5 yrs 5 yrs	10	Bachelor's Degree plus or including at least 12 semester hours in birth to five focused coursework <i>or</i> 90 semester hours toward a Bachelor's Degree including at least 18 birth to five focused semester hours
5 yrs 5 yrs 5 yrs	9	Doctorate Degree plus or including at least 6 birth to five focused semester hours <i>or</i> Master's Degree plus or including at least 6 birth to five focused semester hours <i>or</i> Bachelor's Degree plus or including at least 6 birth to five focused semester hours
5 yrs 3 yrs 3 yrs 3 yrs	8	Associate Degree plus or including at least 24 birth to five focused semester hours <i>or</i> Doctorate Degree (less than 6 birth to five focused semester hours) <i>or</i> Master's Degree (less than 6 birth to five focused semester hours) <i>or</i> Bachelor's Degree (less than 6 birth to five focused semester hours)
3 yrs 3 yrs	7	Associate Degree plus or including at least 18 birth to five focused semester hours <i>or</i> 57 semester hours of general education including at least 24 birth to five focused semester hours
3 yrs 3 yrs	6	Associate Degree plus or including at least 12 birth to five focused semester hours <i>or</i> 45 semester hours of general education including at least 18 birth to five focused semester hours
3 yrs 3 yrs	5	Associate Degree plus or including at least 6 birth to five focused semester hours <i>or</i> 70 semester hours of general education including at least 6 birth to five focused semester hours
3 yrs 3 yrs 3 yrs	4	36 semester hours of general education including at least 12 birth to five focused semester hours <i>or</i> Associate Degree (less than 6 birth to five focused semester hours) <i>or</i> 70 semester hours of general education (less than 6 birth to five focused semester hours)
3 yrs	3	24 semester hours of general education including at least 6 birth to five focused semester hours
3 yrs 3 yrs 3 yrs 3 yrs	2	18 semester hours of general education including at least 4 birth to five focused semester hours <i>or</i> Early Childhood Certificate <i>or</i> CDA Credential (Child Development Associate Credential) earned for at least 12 semester hours <i>or</i> 12 birth to five focused semester hours
3 yrs 3 yrs 3 yrs	1	6 birth to five focused semester hours <i>or</i> Successful completion of NC Early Childhood Credential coursework Successful completion of NC Family Child Care Credential Coursework (for family child care providers only)
3 yrs	PP	Para-Professional – less than the North Carolina Early Childhood Credential or less than 6 birth to five focused semester hours



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