

Creating Success
NC Community Colleges
Hope • Opportunity • Jobs



CDA CREDENTIAL: NC Community College Track



Office of Early Learning (Pre-K – Grade 3)
NC Head Start State Collaboration Office
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Inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination issues should be directed to: Dr. Rebecca Garland, Chief Academic Officer
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CDA CREDENTIAL: NC Community College Track

DETAILS ABOUT WHAT IT IS...

- A Child Development Associate (CDA) is an individual who has successfully completed the CDA assessment process and has been awarded the CDA Credential. CDAs are able 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 Credential: NC Community College Track (CDA: NCCC Track) is the new approach to earning the national Child Development Associate credential awarded to individuals working in early care and education settings by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, DC.
- Candidates can now earn the national CDA credential by taking 17-18 hours of curriculum course credits in the North Carolina Community College System and completing additional CDA requirements.
 - If you want to earn the CDA credential for work in a preschool setting, you must complete EDU 119, EDU 153, EDU 145 (or PSY 245), EDU 146, EDU 131 and EDU 184.
 - If you want to earn the CDA credential for work with infants and toddlers, you must complete EDU 119, EDU 153, EDU 144 (or PSY 244), EDU 234, EDU 131 and EDU 184 or EDU 234A.
- Join the more than 250,000 individuals who have earned the CDA Credential in our country.

HOW THIS IS BENEFICIAL...

- Just like the national CDA credential, the CDA: NCCC Track:
 - is recognized in child care, Head Start, and Pre-K systems across the United States.
 - is the minimum requirement to be a teacher in Early Head Start programs and to be a teaching assistant in Head Start and More at Four programs.
 - is recognized in state child care licensing standards in 49 states and the District of Columbia.
- The CDA: NCCC Track coursework leads directly to the Associate degree in Early Childhood Education.

- Candidates are eligible for Early Educator Certification (minimally at Level II).

** Note: Individuals who currently have a two or four-year degree in early childhood education or child development would not need to earn the CDA Credential.*

HOW TO GET THE CREDENTIAL...

- Those pursuing the CDA: NCCC Track must:
 - have at least 480 hours experience working with children within the last 5 years.
 - be at least 18 years old.
 - have a high school diploma or GED.
 - complete an abbreviated Professional Resource File.
 - earn a certificate in Pediatric First Aid.
 - take all of the required coursework at one or more of NC's 58 community colleges to earn either the preschool or infant/toddler CDA: NCCC Track.
 - pass the CDA Assessment process.
- To learn more about the required courses, visit: http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/Programs/common_course_library.htm#E (then click on EDU).
- To learn about the availability of any single course, check with your local community college.
- CDA Applications can be obtained from Child Care Services Association in Chapel Hill, NC, for \$18 by calling the T.E.A.C.H. CDA Counselor at 919.967.3272.
- The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarships are available to help you take the courses you need to earn the CDA Credential and also to pay the CDA Assessment fees. Contact the T.E.A.C.H. CDA Counselor at the number above.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

- **The NC Head Start-State Collaboration Office**
919.431.2005 | khari.garvin@ncpublicschools.org
- **The NC Community College System Office**
919.807.7122 | smithe@nccommunitycolleges.edu
- **Child Care Services Association**
919.967.3272 | T.E.A.C.H. CDA Counselor