

WVC Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Preparation Certificate

Students who successfully complete the following courses will be able to receive a Wenatchee Valley College CDA Credential Preparation Certificate and be able to test for the national Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential and enter the workforce as a skilled worker.

ECE 101 Introduction to Early Childhood Education (5 credits)

Overview of early childhood philosophies with respect to learning environments and their relationships to growth and development in all areas; developmentally appropriate practice in child guidance, professional development; strategies for ensuring a well run program; and productive relationships with families. (Provides 50 clock hours toward CDA certification) Prerequisite: concurrent enrollment in ECE 131) – Offered Fall Quarter

EDUC 115 Child Development (5 credits)

Child development in all areas including physical, social, emotional, communication and cognitive. Looks at patterns and sequences as well as individual development. Will consider the impact of community, family, cultures, disabilities and other external forces on development. (Provides 50 clock hours toward CDA certification) – Offered Fall Quarter

ECE 140 CDA Capstone (4 credits)

Course assists students in final preparation for CDA assessment. Students develop CDA professional resource file, distribute parent questionnaires, and review CDA competency goals/functional areas. Prerequisite: ECE 101, EDUC 115 first aid/CPR training, blood-borne pathogen education, and have at least 480 hours of experience working in an Early Childhood Program within the past five years. – Offered Spring Quarter

Completion of the above courses will ensure that the student has 120 clock hours of training toward the CDA certification in the eight required content areas:

CDA Content Areas:	Number of Clock Hours
Planning a safe, healthy learning environments	15
Steps to advance children’s physical and intellectual development	15
Positive ways to support children’s social and emotional development	15
Strategies to establish productive relationships with families	15
Strategies to manage an effective program operation	15
Maintaining a commitment to professionalism	10
Observing and recording children’s behavior	15
Principles of child development and learning	20

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Optional Course (not required for the WVC Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Preparation Certificate)

To acquire the National CDA credential a formal observation is required. The student must contract with an independent Early Childhood adviser to fulfill the formal observation requirement or they can enroll in ECE 128. The ECE instructor will observe the student using the CDA classroom observation tool to access the student's competency.

ECE (128)

CDA Field Experience (2 credits)

Student completes 60 hours of field experience in an approved early childhood setting. Under the direct supervision of a qualified early childhood professional, student takes on the role of the lead teacher to demonstrate proficiency in the skill needed to acquire a CDA credential. The ECE instructor will observe the student using the CDA classroom observation tool to access the student's competency. Concurrent enrollment in ECE 140 required. – Offered Spring Quarter

CDA Credential

Is awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition (the Council) which is a nonprofit corporation headquartered in Washington D.C. The CDA Assessment is the process by which an Early Childhood candidate is evaluated by the Council. In preparation for the assessment, the Candidate documents her/his skill in relation to the CDA Competency Standards. Five components make up the documentation:

1. The Professional Resource File – which includes documentation of 480 hours of experience working with young children and 120 clock hours of formal Early Childhood Education
2. The Parent Questionnaires
3. The CDA Assessment Observation Instrument
4. The Early Childhood Studies Review – administered by Council Representative
5. The Oral Interview – administered by Council Representative

The results are submitted to the Council for review by a committee which makes the decision whether to award the CDA Credential to the Candidate.

WVC CDA Credential Preparation Certificate

Is a certificate that is offered by Wenatchee Valley College. Students who earn this certificate will have completed the following components required by the CDA Assessment process:

1. The Professional Resource File – which includes documentation of 480 hours of experience working with young children and 120 clock hours of formal Early Childhood Education
2. The Parent Questionnaires

Students will have earned 10 college credits that can be applied to the WVC ATS Early Childhood Education degree

Student can take ECE 128 if they need further support in completing component - 3: The CDA Assessment observation Instrument