

Plan Your Early Learning Career

Starting in 2008, the Department of Early Learning (DEL) led a group of early learning experts and stakeholders, called the Professional Development Consortium, to create a clear, comprehensive early learning professional development system in Washington for those who work with children birth through school age. Research shows that interactions between caregivers/educators and children are one of the most important indicators of a high-quality program. Caregivers and educators need the training and education opportunities that support high-quality interactions with children. Additionally, caregivers need clear and accessible pathways to attain professional goals from local training opportunities to higher education.

In 2010, the Professional Development Consortium drafted an early learning professional career lattice. The goal of the career lattice was to develop a common, statewide progression of credentials and degrees that are aligned with the workforce knowledge and competency framework for early care and education and school age child care professionals. The career lattice consists of 15 steps which align with career opportunities in licensed child care, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Head Start programs, family support services, ECE trainers, early learning licensors and higher education faculty.

DEL partnered with the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to develop a clear educational pathway for early learning professionals. This partnership has made it possible for Wenatchee Valley College Early Childhood Education students to earn the following “stackable” certificates that are reflected on the Washington state career lattice.

ECE Initial Certificate

(12 total credits)

ECED&105 – Intro to Early Childhood

ECED&107 – Health, Safety, Nutrition

ECED&120 – Practicum

Short Certificate of Specialization

8 credits (20 credits total)

<u>ECE Initial Certificate</u>

(12 total credits)

Infant/Toddler Care

EDUC&115 Child Development (5 credits)

ECED&132 Infants/Toddler Care (3 credits)

School-Age Care

EDUC&115 Child Development (5 credits)

ECED&136 School Age Care (3 credits)

Family Child Care

EDUC&115 Child Development (5 credits)

EDED&134 Family Child Care (3 credits)

Administration

EDUC&115 Child Development (5 credits)
ECED&139 Administration in Early Learning

State ECE Certificate

27 credits (47 credits total)

ECE Initial Certificate + Short Certificate/Specialization

(12 total credits) + (8 total credits)

English 101 – 5 credits

Math 171 – 5 credits

EDUC&150 Child/Family/Community – 3 credits

ECED&180 Language/Literacy Development – 3 credits

ECED&190 Observation/Assessment – 3 credits

ECED&160 Curriculum Development – 5 credits

ECED&170 Environments, Young Children – 3 credits

or

EDUC&130 Guiding Behavior – 3 credits

Level 1 – Entry Level Professional

STEP 1 Meets minimum child care licensing standards
(18 years of age or High school apprentice)

*FCC Assistant
*CCC Assistant
*School Age Care Assistant

STEP 2 High School Equivalent & 20 hours Basic STARS

*FCC Owner/Primary Provider

STEP 3 At least 2 hours of training in each Core Competency area (plus step 2)

*CCC Lead Teacher

Level 2 – Statewide Credential

STEP 4 8 approved ECE credits or 80 hours of approved Training toward CDA

*Head Start Teacher Assistant

STEP 5 Initial ECE Certificate (12 Credits) or CDA

*ECEAP Teacher Assistant

STEP 6 Short Certificate of Specialization (20 credits)
of

*CCC Director (under supervision

STEP 7 State ECE Certificate (47 credits)

CC Program Supervisor)

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Level 3 – Associate Degree

STEP 8 65 college credits and 30 approved ECE credits

- *Director (w/o Program Supervisor)
- *CCC Program Supervisor
- *Site Coordinator

STEP 9 ECE or related Associates Degree with 30 or more approved ECE credits

- *Program Director
- *ECEAP Lead Teacher
- *ECEAP Family Support Specialist
- *Head Start Lead Teacher