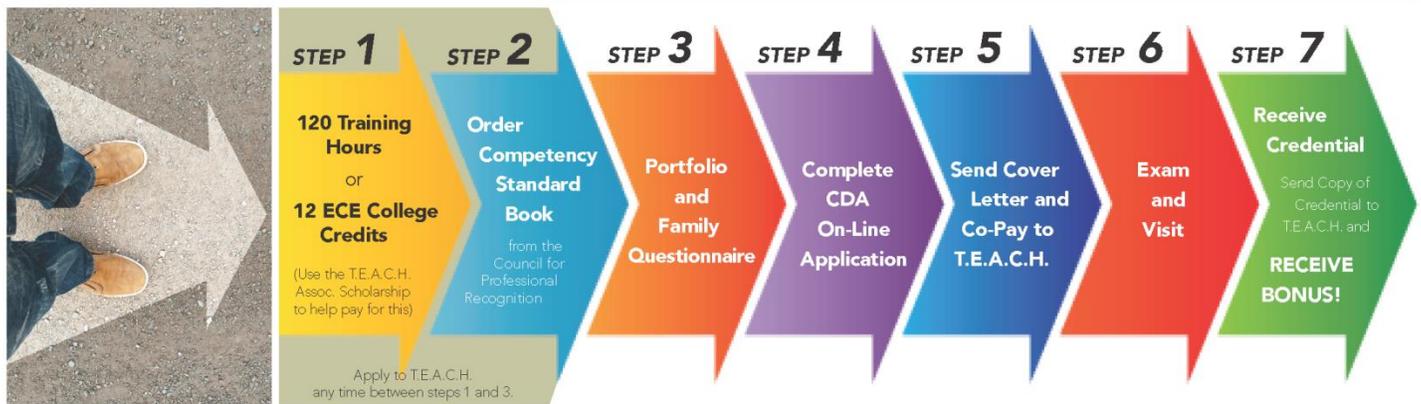


Becoming a CDA in Iowa...

The *Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential*[™] is earned after completing a process and assessment by the Council for Professional Recognition. Hundreds are seeking CDA credentials as **basic-level education**, to enhance skills or to meet **position/regulation requirements**. Some use the CDA credential as a **first college experience** without committing to a degree program. Others use it to raise their level of **professionalism** for registration, licensing, Iowa's QRS, the Quality Preschool Program Standards, Head Start Standards, and NAEYC Accreditation.

Simple Steps To Getting Your CDA



A. Competency goals: The successful CDA candidate will:

1. Establish and maintain a safe, healthy learning environment
2. Advance physical and intellectual competence
3. Support social and emotional development and to provide positive guidance
4. Establish positive and productive relationships with families
5. Ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participant needs
6. Maintain a commitment to professionalism

B. Criteria: When the candidate has completed the requirements for the CDA credential, s/he must meet and verify the following:

- Have a high school diploma/equivalent or be a junior or senior in a high school/vocational program in early education
- Have 480 hours of **experience** working with young children within the past 3 years
- Have **120 hours** of formal ECE education with at least **10 hours** in each of **8 subject areas**:
 1. Planning a **safe, healthy environment** to invite learning
 2. Steps to advance children's **physical** and **intellectual** development
 3. Positive ways to support children's **social** and **emotional** development
 4. Strategies to establish productive **relationships with families**
 5. Strategies to manage an effective **program operation**
 6. Maintaining a commitment to **professionalism**
 7. **Observing** and **recording** children's **behavior**
 8. Principles of **child development** and learning

The Community College Early Childhood Alliance selected four 3-credit courses for **college credit** (12 credits) as CDA courses.

ECE 103—Introduction to Early Childhood Education

ECE 133—Child Health, Safety & Nutrition

ECE 243—Early Childhood Guidance

and one of the following:

ECE 158—Early Childhood Curriculum I

ECE 159—Early Childhood Curriculum II

ECE 221—Infant Toddler Care/Education

Optional wrap up one-credit class (offered online to anyone): **ECE 106**—CDA Standards

An alternative way to earn training hours is through **community-based**, training organizations such as Child Care Resource & Referral, Area Education Agencies, ISU Extension, etc. Although the opportunities are approved by the Council, T.E.A.C.H. scholarships can only support college coursework.

C. Candidate documentation: In addition to completing the 120 clock hours, the candidate must also document competence with these steps:

Prepared documentation (these items are kept for Verification Visit):

1. **Professional Portfolio** including 10 resource collection items, 6 reflective statements of competence (up to 500 words each), and a professional philosophy statement (up to 2 pages).
2. **Family Questionnaires** are distributed & collected in sealed envelopes.

To be completed after application is approved by the Council:

3. **CDA Exam** taken at a PearsonVUE testing center within 6 months of application approval. Consists of 65 multiple choice questions completed within one hour and 45 minutes.

Verification Visit (administered by Professional Development Specialist):

4. **Review** of materials including the Professional Portfolio, Family Questionnaires, and transcripts/certificates.
5. **Observation** of candidate working with children over approximately 2 hours.
6. **Reflective Dialogue** with candidate focusing on professional reflection and goal-setting.

These combined requirements ensure that many **assessments** are completed. The candidate is assessed caring for **children**, and by the **families, instructors**, and a **Professional Development Specialist**.

CDA Assessment Types: The CDA credential is earned as a center based **infant/toddler** (birth to 36 months), a center based **preschool** (3-5 years old), **family child care**, or **home visitor**. Non-English monolingual and bilingual options available.

CDA Renewal: Once a CDA credential is awarded, it must be renewed every three years thereafter to remain current. Some renewal requirements include completing one **3-credit course** and belonging to a **professional association**, as well as other steps.

How can T.E.A.C.H. help?

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Iowa assists providers in Iowa with earning a CDA credential by offering scholarships. This requires a commitment to their current program and offers compensation (raise/bonus). There are 3 ways T.E.A.C.H. can help:

- Assist with the **college credit courses**, materials, and books.
- Provide support for the \$425 **assessment application fee**, and provide a **bonus** when the credential is earned. This scholarship is available regardless of how the coursework is completed.
- Provide support for CDA **renewal** requirements.

For more information about the CDA in Iowa or an information/application packet, please contact Iowa AEYC/T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA, 5525 Meredith Dr. Suite F, Des Moines, IA 50310, 515- 331-8000, www.iowaaeyc.org.

T.E.A.C.H. can help with renewing your CDA credential!

Additional information can be obtained from:

The Council for Professional Recognition, 2460 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009-3575, 800- 424-4310, www.cdacouncil.org



Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children