

Childhood Development Associate Preparation Program

In 2020, early childhood providers in Ohio will be required to have CDA certification.

Get certified now through an affordable, 16-week program at Columbus State.



**The CDA credential.
Essential for all early
childhood educators.**

Whether you're preparing for a career in early childhood development, or already employed, the Childhood Development Associate (CDA)[™] credential signals to administrators—and parents—that you're well educated in child development and fully prepared to help kids learn and grow.

By completing three courses, students meet the credit requirements for a CDA, as well as gain nine credits toward an associate degree in Early Childhood Development and Education at Columbus State. The CDA credential will be a minimum requirement of all early childhood providers receiving state funding by 2020.

The Columbus State CDA program also provides critical support as students start developing a professional resource file, writing competency statements, studying for the CDA examination, and preparing for the classroom observation and oral interview.

The CDA program not only opens a path for students, it also helps institutions raise the caliber of their teaching and improve their financial footing. The more CDAs institutions have on staff, the more centers will meet the rigorous requirements for critical funding opportunities.

300,000+

EDUCATORS WITH A CDA

18,000+

EDUCATORS EARN ONE EACH YEAR

Join the movement to enhance early childhood education, and stand out as a leading educator in the field.

What students gain with a CDA:

- Nine credits toward an associate degree in Early Childhood Development and Education at Columbus State
- Increased confidence in the classroom
- Better understanding of developmentally appropriate practice
- Qualifications for an ever-expanding list of job requirements
- A signal to parents that you're knowledgeable—and that their kids are in good hands

Why Columbus State?

Qualified early childhood professionals are increasingly in high demand. The Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) associate degree program at Columbus State prepares today's professionals to work with children and families in a variety of settings.

Few other institutions can offer such a high quality education at such an affordable cost. Our students learn every day from seasoned, well-qualified instructors. They complete their course requirements in just 16 weeks. And when help is needed, our faculty coaches are there to provide one-on-one support every step of the way.

ECDE courses needed to complete the CDA Preparation Program:

The CDA courses at Columbus State provide a solid command of today's methods and best practices to help aspiring educators become confident practitioners of teaching young children. All courses can be taken in one semester.

**INTRODUCTION
TO CDA**

2 credit hours

**SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

3 credit hours

**EARLY CHILDHOOD
CURRICULUM**

4 credit hours



The Columbus State National Association for Education of Young Children accredited program provides a top-notch education that includes hands-on practicum experiences in high-quality early childhood centers as well as various community settings, such as COSI, the Columbus Zoo, and the Columbus Museum of Art.

ECDE meets the needs of our diverse student population with day and evening classes; web, blended, and face-to-face classes; and classes available at our Columbus or Delaware campuses. For students interested in transferring to a four-year institution to earn a Kindergarten through Grade 3 Teaching License, we have several established transfer agreements.

What are the requirements of earning a CDA credential?

- 120 hours of formal education training and CDA coursework logged within the past five years
- 480 hours of experience working with children within the past five years
- Documentation that verifies your competence in early care and education, including a professional resource file and parent opinion questionnaires
- The CDA Assessment Observation Instrument
- An oral interview
- A written exam

How to I register for the CDA courses?

Start by applying for admission to Columbus State Community College at csc.edu/admissions.

What requirements have to be met before applying to the CDA preparation program?

Candidates must:

- Be 18 years old
- Hold a high school diploma or equivalent
- Be currently employed or volunteering in an early childhood setting

How much does it cost?

The three courses (nine credit hours) cost approximately \$1,300 for Ohio residents.

Is financial assistance available?

The short answer is yes. But of course, it depends on a number of factors. To learn more about financial aid options, visit us at csc.edu/services/financial-aid.



The CDA Competency Standards are national benchmarks used to evaluate a caregiver's performance with children and families during the CDA assessment process. They're divided into six Competency Goals, which are statements of a general purpose or goals for caregiver behavior. The Competency Goals apply to all childcare settings.

Qualified CDAs know how to nurture the emotional, physical, intellectual, and social development of children. They know how to put the CDA Competency Standards into practice and understand why those standards help children move with success from one developmental stage to another.

The Council for Professional Recognition works to make sure the CDA is nationally transferable and recognized by the profession as a vital part of professional development. Earning the CDA Credential has many advantages, including exposure to the larger community of early childhood educators.

ONE

Establish and maintain a safe, healthy learning environment.

TWO

Maintain a commitment to professionalism.

THREE

Ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participant needs.

FOUR

Establish positive and productive relationships with families.

FIVE

Advance physical and intellectual competence.

SIX

Support social and emotional development and to provide positive guidance.

Ready to learn more?

Talk to an academic advisor today.

They're here to answer your questions about the CDA program, walk you through the process, and help you get started whenever you're ready.

Columbus Campus

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Financial aid is available.

Explore options at csc.edu/services/financial-aid.