

High School



Program



COUNCIL
— *for* —
PROFESSIONAL
RECOGNITION

High School Students and the CDA

In 2011, guided by the belief that all students should be college and career ready, the Council began allowing high school juniors and seniors enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to earn their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential™.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- Be enrolled as a junior or senior in a high school Family and Consumer Sciences program in the area of Early Childhood Education/Child Development.
- Be able to speak, read and write well enough to fulfill the responsibilities of a CDA Candidate.
- Like all CDA Candidates, students must have completed the entire 120 clock hours of child development education training and the entire 480 hours of experience working directly with children before sending their application to the Council.

Partnering With the Council

A partnership with the Council for Professional Recognition provides Family and Consumer Sciences programs with a support system to guide students who aspire to be early child care professionals through the Child Development Associate (CDA) National Credentialing Program™.

Benefits of Partnering:

- On-going professional development support for Family and Consumer Sciences State Administrators, high school instructors and facilitators implementing the Child Development Associate Program.
- Special discount on CDA publications (Essentials Textbook, Essentials Workbook and Competency Standards).
- An assigned Council staff person in the Finance Department to support your purchasing requests.
- Ability to track the status of Candidate applications and credentialing.
- Customized High School CDA webinars to discuss individual timelines for meeting your high school program objectives.



Tips for High School Early Childhood Career/ Technical Programs Preparing Students for the CDA Credential

Application Materials

- Order a Competency Standards Book for each student in the appropriate setting. It is strongly suggested the school administrator order materials one month in advance of the program start date.

Documentation Students Need to Prepare

- As part of the documentation collection requirements, Candidates must:
 - Distribute and collect Family Questionnaires
 - Prepare a Professional Portfolio

All documents must be no older than six months when the application is sent to the Council. Please do not send any of these materials directly to the Council. Each Candidate must hold on to these documents to present to the Professional Development (PD) Specialist during the Verification Visit.

- In addition, as part of the Verification Visit, students must:
 - Be observed by a PD Specialist working with children
 - Be prepared to participate in a reflective dialogue regarding their work with young children
 - Schedule their CDA Exam at a Pearson Vue testing center

Preparation for Family and Consumer Sciences High School Instructors and Administrators

- Your role as an instructor or administrator will include the following:
 - Ensuring your students receive professional development training to meet the 120 hour education requirement.
 - Assisting your students with applying online to start the assessment process.
 - Applying to serve as Professional Development Specialist (<http://www.cdacouncil.org/pds>).
 - Assisting your students with finding a Pearson Vue testing center (<http://www.pearsonvue.com/cdaexam>).
 - Ensuring your students have an active email account that is checked on a regular basis.

Assessment Fee

- The assessment fee is \$425. Fees must be included with each application. If applicable, Candidate's should apply using the YourCDA online application system (<http://www.cdacouncil.org/yourcda>).
- If the school administration is paying for one or more Candidate's assessment, please consider opening an advanced account.

Time Frame

- Upon receiving the "Ready to Schedule" Notice from the Council, the Candidate has six months from that date to complete the CDA Exam and Verification Visit.
- Candidates may apply for their CDA credential as early as two months prior to their graduation.
- Please ensure that your application has the code HS/ CTE under section #2 (Type of Program).

For Further Assistance

Contact us with your questions at 1-800-424-4310 or
send us an email to partnerships@cdacouncil.org

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