Get a CDA® in High School

Earning a Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential in high school jump-starts successful careers and channels faculty expertise. If you are a student interested in working in early childhood education, earning a CDA® can initiate a career in the field by the time you leave high school and help you earn college credit towards your AA or Bachelor’s degree.

The CDA credential itself is based on the knowledge of the nation’s leading scholars in early childhood education and learning. It’s the only portable, national and multi-language credential of its kind. A CDA opens career opportunities for thousands of graduates every year.

Interested in implementing a CDA program at your school? The Child Development Associate® (CDA) Handbook for High School: A Guide to Advocacy and Implementation is a resource to assist with making the CDA a part of your school’s CTE curriculum. Visit www.cdacouncil.org to learn more.

GET MORE INFORMATION:
Web: cdacouncil.org
Email: partnerships@cdacouncil.org
How it Works

CDA® training and education programs follow the basic steps as detailed on the right. The specific start and end times of the credentialing process may vary according to your specific school.

Benefits for Students

• Leave high school job-ready with nationally-recognized CDA credential
• Jump-start your higher education with core knowledge of child development
• Have the knowledge, skills and confidence to work with young children
• Assessment available in the language of your work
• Gain valuable skills and competencies early childhood employers want
• Earn college credit while still in high school
• Faculty support throughout the process

Benefits for Faculty

• Empower students with explicit, measurable, and transferable learning competencies recognized in all 50 states and the United States military
• Serve as a CDA Professional Development (PD) Specialist™ and further your own training and expertise
• Prepare your students for success in college and careers
• Receive recognition for your contributions

STEP 01
Student enrolls in CDA® classes in high school through a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program

STEP 02
Complete experience blocks
120 hours of child development/early childhood education + 480 hours of experience working directly with children

STEP 03
Participate in a CDA Verification Visit™
• Presents CDA® Professional Portfolio for review
• Be observed working with young children
• Reflect on areas of strength or growth

STEP 04
Take CDA® Exam
To take place at a local Pearson Vue testing center

STEP 05
Earn your CDA® Credential

START WORKING
Find a job straight out of high school
CDA® credentialed staff are in high demand

FURTHER YOUR EDUCATION
Turn CDA® into college credits toward an associate or bachelor degree*
* Based on individual policies at select colleges and universities

FACULTY SUPPORT
• Mentors
• CDA PD Specialists™
• Trainers
• Teachers