

Simple Steps to Earn Your CDA

Follow the steps below to earn your Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™!



01

Education

120 Training Hours or
12 ECE College Credits

Eligibility Criteria:

- Have a high school diploma or 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

05
Celebrate!
You've earned
your CDA®!



02

Portfolio

Portfolio & Family
Questionnaires



04
Exam
Exam &
Verification Visit



03

Apply

To Council
and TEACH



TEACH
CDA® Navigator
Iowa

A Program of Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

CDA® Navigators work side-by-side with CDA candidates to support and facilitate the CDA process.

Questions? Contact a CDA Navigator at:
cda@iowaaeyc.org

TEACH
EARLY CHILDHOOD®

Iowa

A Program of Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

TEACH provides scholarships to support the cost of college coursework and the \$425 assessment fee for the CDA exam.

Questions? Contact a TEACH Counselor at:
teach@iowaaeyc.org



01

Candidates need 120 hours of Early Childhood training or college credits in eight subject areas. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about the subject areas and the Iowa Community College Early Childhood Alliance recommended coursework.



02

Items that will need to be included in your portfolio: Summary of Education, Family Questionnaires, Reflective Statements of Competence, Resource Collection and Professional Philosophy Statement. Need help? Contact one of our CDA Navigators.



03

Once your portfolio is finished, you have two applications to complete: the application to the Council and the application for a CDA[®] Assessment scholarship through TEACH. The TEACH scholarship will pay 85% of the CDA Assessment fee. Contact one of our CDA Navigators at cda@iowaaeyc.org or email teach@iowaaeyc.org for assistance with these applications.



04

Schedule your exam and verification visit in your CDA Council account. Contact one of our CDA Navigators at cda@iowaaeyc.org for assistance.



05

Celebrate! Once you have earned your CDA[®] Credential, send a copy to your TEACH Counselor to receive your bonus. After earning your CDA Credential, you could be eligible for the WAGE\$ program. To learn more about WAGE\$, visit iowaaeyc.org or contact a WAGE\$ Counselor at wages@iowaaeyc.org.