



Career Pathway Credential Levels

Career Pathway Levels are based on **Early Childhood Specific** education and experience as shown through supporting documentation.

Level I

Abilities

Conform to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals by following supervisory direction and instruction.

Requirements

At least 16 years old and enrolled in high school or GED preparation classes

Level II

Abilities

Understand and practice Core Knowledge and Core Competencies with direction and instruction or through sponsorship/affiliation with a professional organization or qualified mentor.

Requirements

At least 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent and 0-1 years of relevant occupational experience

Level III

Abilities

Practice programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.

Requirements

WV Training Certificate in Early Care and Education (WVTCECE) **or** 120 completed training hours required for the Child Development Associate (CDA) or equivalent **or** completed 3 semesters of the Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) program **or** Completed 4 courses of the WVDE Child Development Specialist (CDS) Career and Technical Education program

Level IV

Abilities

Practice and implement programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.

Requirements

Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or equivalent **or** 12 college credits in ECE and 1 year of relevant occupational experience **or** completed 4 semesters of the Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) program **or** North American Montessori Center Teaching Diploma **or** Undergraduate Certificate in Early Childhood Administration

Level V

Abilities

Plan and adapt programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.

Requirements

Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) Department of Labor or Department of Education certificate **or** other certificate program in early care and education comparable to ACDS **or** 28 or more college credit hours with 9 college credit hours in ECE **or** 28 or more college credit hours and 1 year of relevant occupational experience

Level VI

Abilities

Make curricular decisions that conform to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.

Requirements

Associate's degree in an ECE field **or** associate's degree with 12 college credit hours in ECE **or** associate's degree and 2 years of relevant occupational experience **or** 64 college credit hours with 12 college credit hours in ECE **or** 64 college credit hours and 2 years of relevant occupational experience

Level VII

Abilities

Develop, select, and evaluate the early childhood program; apply theory into practice.

Requirements

Bachelor's degree in ECE field **or** bachelor's degree with 15 college credit hours in ECE and 1 year of relevant occupational experience **or** bachelor's degree and 3 years of relevant occupational experience

Level VIII

Abilities

Directly involved in the activities of state, regional, and/or national groups; contribute to the formation, evaluation, and implementation of policies within the early childhood field.

Requirements

Advanced (master's or doctorate) degree in ECE field **or** advanced degree with 18 college credit hours in ECE and 1 year of relevant occupational experience **or** advanced degree and 5 years of relevant occupational experience

- Coursework in the Early Care and Education (ECE) Field refers to child development, birth to four certification, early childhood, child and family studies, family and consumer science, and early childhood special education
- Relevant Occupation Experience refers to any professional position working with or on behalf of children, ages birth through eight (8) and their families through a) direct work with young children and families; b) supervision, leadership or management; c) program coordination, development or regulation; d) training, instruction or technical assistance; or e) evaluation or research.
- Only diplomas from secondary education institutions recognized by the WV Department of Education, if attended within WV, the American Council on Education, if attended outside of WV, or a regional accrediting association will be accepted for consideration.
- Only higher education coursework from or recognized by institutions of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting association will be eligible for consideration.