T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship

Who is eligible for a T.E.A.C.H. Iowa scholarship?

Early care providers & teachers who:

» Work in a regulated preschool, child care center, or home program for at least 30 hours per week (or full-time for the hours your preschool offers programming).

» Have worked with children from birth to age five in their current program for at least three months.

» Are working toward an early childhood degree, credential, or endorsement at an Iowa college (or would like to be).

» Have the support of their employer (if applicable).

» Demonstrate participation or progress toward a quality initiative such as QRS, QPPS, Head Start, or NAEYC/NAFCC accreditation.

If you answer yes to all of the above questions, you may be eligible to receive a college scholarship from T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood IOWA. For more information, e-mail teach@iowaaeyc.org or apply online at www.iowaaeyc.org/teach.cfm.
How do I get my CDA?

The Child Development Associate (CDA) is a national credential for those in the early care and education field. Started in 1971, the CDA program was designed to enhance the quality of childcare by increasing and recognizing the competence of those who care for young children. A CDA may be earned for preschool, infant/toddler, or family child care.

Program Requirements

Candidates eligible to apply for the CDA credential must:

» Hold a high school diploma or equivalent, be a junior or senior in high school, or be in a vocational program in early education.
» Be able to speak, read, and write well enough to perform the responsibilities of a CDA.
» Have 480 hours of professional experience in a setting serving children in the candidate’s CDA age group.
» Complete 120 hours of formal early childhood education training, covering the growth and development with the age group of children for the CDA you will apply for, with no fewer than 10 training hours in each of the CDA functional areas.
» SWCC standard: Attain a minimum grade point average of 2.5 in each of the five required classes.

Candidates must meet these requirements by the time they have completed the required classes.

How do I enroll in the CDA preparation courses?

FIRST: Apply as a student with SWCC online at www.swcciaowa.edu/apply or contact SWCC Admissions at 800.247.4023, ext. 421.

ONCE ACCEPTED: Fill out the FAFSA application for financial aid (https://fafsa.ed.gov) and if eligible, contact T.E.A.C.H. IOWA at 515.331.8000.

THEN: Enroll in a required CDA class by calling SWCC’s distance education department at 800.247.4023, ext. 542.

What classes do I need to take to get my CDA?

The required courses for the CDA program:

» ECE 103 Intro to Early Childhood Education
» ECE 133 Child Health, Safety, and Nutrition
» ECE 243 Early Childhood Guidance
» Choose ONE of the following:
  » ECE 221 Infant Toddler Care/Ed (IT or FCC CDA)
  » ECE 158 Curriculum 1 (PS or FCC CDA)
  » ECE 159 Curriculum II (PS or FCC CDA)
» ECE 106 Child Development Associate Standards Course (Pre-requisite: three of four ECE courses)

Total: 13 Credits

All courses for the CDA are online!

All students must submit ACT or ACCUPLACER scores. The ACCUPLACER test may be taken at SWCC’s Assessment Center. Based on those scores, some students may be required to take a composition class before beginning the CDA prep courses.