





Paths to Earning a Staff Credential in Florida

ECPC / National CDA / FCCPC / Educational Exemption Crosswalk*

	ECPC Early Childhood Professional Certificate 	National CDA National Child Development Associate 	FCCPC Florida Child Care Professional Certificate 	Education Exemption 
Issuer	Issued by the Florida Department of Education; Offered through approved Secondary and Post-Secondary Schools	Issued by the Council for Professional Recognition; Offered throughout the US at public and private agencies and online	Issued by the Florida Department of Children and Families; Offered through approved training providers	Issued by the Florida Department of Children and Families; Degrees must be earned from an accredited institution .
Classroom Instruction	120 hours of classroom instruction includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCF mandated training Part 1 (30 hours) and Part II (10 hours w/Preschool Appropriate Practices) The 120 hours must also include a 5-clock hour DCF approved literacy course; must include a minimum of ten hours in each of the 8 content areas. 	120 hours of formal child care education within the last five years; may or may not include DCF mandated training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 10 hours in each of the 8 required subject areas. Education may be for in-service, CEUs, college credit or non-college credit. Contact hours must be documented on transcript, certificate or letter. May not use training obtained at conferences or from individual consultants. 	120 hours of classroom instruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 120 hours cannot include DCF mandated training. The 120 hours must include a minimum of ten hours in each of the 8 content areas. 	Option 1: Bachelor's degree or Higher in ONE of the following areas: Early Childhood Education/Child Development; Pre-Kindergarten or Primary Education; Preschool Education; Family and Consumer Sciences; Exceptional Student Education; Special Education; Mental Disabilities; Specific Learning Disabilities; Physically Impaired; Varying Exceptionalities; Emotional Disabilities; Visually Impaired; Hearing Impaired; Speech-Language Pathology; Elementary Education with certification to teach any age birth through 6th grade (certification may be inactive, provided the certificate is not suspended/revoked) Option 2: Associate degree or higher in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
Work Experience	480 hours of documented direct work with children 5 years or younger in a child care setting which must occur while enrolled in the ECPC program	480 hours of experience working with children within the last five years; and/or while enrolled in the training program.	480 hours working with children in an early childhood setting in the last five years. A minimum of 80 of the 480 hours must be completed while attending the program	Option 3: Associate degree or higher <u>WITH</u> at least 6 college credit hours in early childhood education/child development <u>AND</u> at least 480 hours experience in a child care setting serving children ages birth through eight years of age

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Content	8 Competency Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning a safe, healthy, supportive, and respectful learning environment • Steps to advance children’s physical and intellectual development (including literacy). • Positive ways to support and promote children’s social and emotional development. • Strategies to establish productive, positive relationships with families. • Strategies to manage effective program operations. • Maintaining a commitment to professionalism. • Observing and recording children’s behavior including an understanding of screening and assessment. (Excluding ECPC) • Principles of child growth and development. (Excluding ECPC) 			N/A
Area(s) of Specialization	Facility based Preschool only	Center Based Preschool; Infant-Toddler; Family Child Care; Home Visitor; Bilingual endorsement; Special education endorsement (waiver only)	Facility based Infant-Toddler; Preschool; Birth through Five; Family Child Care Home	N/A
Early Childhood Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Resource File • Statement of Competence • Resource Collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Portfolio by candidate • Resource Collection • Parent Opinion Questionnaires • Teaching Philosophy Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Portfolio • Statement of Competence • Resource Collection 	N/A
Additional Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate must be at least 17 years old. • High School Diploma/GED • Formal observations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school diploma, GED or be enrolled as a junior or senior in a high school CTE ECE program. • Sign Ethical Conduct Statement • Formal Observation • Verification visits with R.O.R with PD Specialist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate must be at least 18 years old. • High School Diploma/GED • Formal observation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your degree was earned outside the U.S., it must be evaluated by a credential evaluation agency approved by the Bureau of Educators Certification or an accredited college/university and determined to be equivalent to one of the above options.
Miscellaneous Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow DOE curriculum frameworks and Program Guidelines • Program reports data to DOE via ECPC Submission Database • Offered in Secondary (high school) and Post-Secondary Adult Vocational programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral interview conducted by Council Representative • Early Childhood Studies review conducted by Council Representative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program reports student completion data to DCF via the FCCPC Student Info Form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit college transcript, which must document the following: applicant’s full name; name of college/university; degree earned (in acceptable area); date degree was earned, and/or; six college credits of early childhood education and documentation of experience (only for option 3 above)

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Reciprocity	Valid in Florida (but may be accepted in other states on a case-by-case basis)	Valid in the US (likely that states would require additional specific training on the unique rules and regulations, etc. of each state)	Valid in Florida (but may be accepted in other states on a case-by-case basis)	Valid in Florida (but may be accepted in other states on a case-by-case basis)
Credentialing	Qualifies student for the DCF Staff Credential	Qualifies student for the DCF Staff Credential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please note: for licensing and training requirements, additional requirements include passing exams for DCF Child Care Facility Rules and Regulations and DCF Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect. Also need to complete a DCF approved literacy course. 	Qualifies student for the DCF Staff Credential	Qualifies student for the DCF Staff Credential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please note: for licensing and training requirements, additional requirements include passing exams for DCF Child Care Facility Rules and Regulations and DCF Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect. Also need to complete a DCF approved literacy course.
Renewal Requirements	ECPC is not renewable; DCF Staff Credential is renewable – see DCF FCCPC renewal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be renewed every 3 years Letter of recommendation from Early Childhood Education Reviewer Proof of current First Aid/CPR Certification Proof of 4.5 CEUs or 3 College Credit hours in early childhood education Within the past year, have a minimum of 80 hours work experience with young children and families Proof of Membership in a National or Local Early Childhood Professional Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be renewed every 5 years Within past 5 years, proof of 4.5 CEUs or 3 College Credit hours in early childhood education Within past year, a minimum of 80 hours of work experience with children Letter of Recommendation from owner, director, or other child care professional Proof of current First Aid/CPR Certification Proof of Membership in an early childhood or school-age professional organization Copy of training transcript or original training credential being renewed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always active and does not need to be renewed
Credential Cost	Initial: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$50 for 6 DCF competency exams; and cost of training Renewal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Cost 	Initial: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$425; Plus cost of training Renewal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$125 online or \$150 by mail 	Initial: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost varies based on training provider Renewal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Cost 	Initial: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Cost Renewal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Cost
Provider Info & Resources	Program Guidelines, Early Childhood Education	Homepage - CDA Council	Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC) Programs Offered	Formal Educational Qualifications

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