



# North Idaho College

1000 West Garden Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

**Child Development**

## **Academic Certificate in Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Preparation**

This course option is designed for the student who desires to learn the basic principles of early childhood education by obtaining a nationally-recognized early childhood credential - the **Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential**, awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition. The four courses in this program cover the basic development of young children, working with families and strategies for providing high quality childcare. Participants who successfully earn this Academic Certificate from NIC will have completed the required 120 hours of specified training, prepared the requisite Professional Portfolio and accompanying Reflective Statements of Competence, and are eligible to apply for a **Child Development Associate Credential** in Infant/Toddler, Preschool, Family Child Care or Home Visitor settings. They have also earned 10 college credits, applicable toward an Associate Degree in Child Development at North Idaho College. The CDA credential is a recognized professional level on the Idaho Early Childhood Pathway of Professional Development.

A **Child Development Associate (CDA)** is an individual who has successfully completed the CDA education, work hours, professional portfolio, and direct assessment process and has been awarded the national CDA Credential. CDAs are able to meet the specific needs of children and work with parents and other adults to nurture children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth in a child development framework. The CDA Credential is administered by the Council for Professional Recognition (The Council) in Washington DC, and there is a fee paid to the Council for the final credentialing process.

To enroll in this program, you must:

- Be eighteen years or older
- Hold a high school diploma or equivalent
- Be currently employed, or routinely volunteer, in a licensed early childhood setting
- Have accumulated or be in the position to accumulate 480 hours working (employed or volunteer) with their targeted age-range children in a supervised early childhood setting within three years of submitting an application.
- Work with infants/toddlers, pre-school, or family child care

This Academic Certificate provides CDA candidates with:

- The 120 hours of specified formal education
- Development of the prescribed professional portfolio
- Development of the six Reflective Statements of Competence
- Distribution, collection, summary and reflection on Parent Questionnaires
- Development of a personal professional philosophy statement
- Application to the Council for Professional Recognition for the direct observation

- Preparation for the direct observation of the candidate working in a child-care setting
- Preparation for the PearsonVue/CDA exam

## ***Program Requirements***

<i>Course No. Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
CHD-110 Child Health and Safety	3
CHD-134 Infancy through Middle Childhood	3
CHD-150 Professional Partnerships: Families, Schools, and Community	3
CHD-165 – CDA Professional Portfolio Development	1
<i>Program Total 10 credits</i>	

Upon completion of this Academic Certificate requirements, you must make official application for Graduation from the Certificate with the NIC Registrar’s Office. Students can find the Application for Graduation under the Academic Profile of the Student menu or online on the Registrar’s Office home website.

Nine of the ten course credits for the Academic Certificate in CDA Credential Preparation articulate directly into the new NIC *Academic Certificate in Child Development* (21 credits).

### **Enrolling in the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Academic Certificate Program:**

- Apply to NIC for admission
- Select “Child Development” as your area of emphasis
- Contact Kathleen Miller Green to indicate interest in the CDA Academic Certificate Program.
- Once your requirements for the program are verified, Kathleen will notify the NIC Registrar’s Office and you will be enrolled into the Academic Certificate Program and Kathleen will be your NIC Academic Advisor.
- Register for one or more of the courses in the Academic Certificate. If the section for a needed course is full **SIGN UP ON THE WAITLIST – THAT IS THE ONLY WAY WE KNOW WE NEED TO OPEN ADDITIONAL SECTIONS OF THE COURSES!!!**
- Upon successful completion (C- or higher) of the four courses, you will be awarded the NIC Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Academic Certificate.
- If you choose, all of your courses will directly transfer and apply to the Associate of Science in Child Development at NIC.

Contact Kathleen Miller Green, NIC Child Development Instructor and CDA Professional Development Specialist at [kmgreen@nic.edu](mailto:kmgreen@nic.edu) or (208) 665-4527 for more information about the Academic Certificate in Child Development Associate (CDA) preparation or the Academic Certificate in Child Development.