



CDA[®] Gold StandardSM

ASSURE THE QUALITY CDA[®] TRAINING
STUDENTS NEED.

Welcome

The Council for Professional Recognition welcomes you on your journey to earn the CDA Gold StandardSM. This is an exciting opportunity to positively impact the lives of students working to earn a Child Development Associate[®] Credential.

We believe that our CDA Gold StandardSM adds value and integrity to the early childhood education profession by verifying connections between the Council's proven ECE competencies and the quality of training resources made available to CDA[®] students.

The Council is also reinforcing the importance of strong collaboration with early childhood education training, professional development organizations, and colleges and universities.

Thank you for your commitment to delivering quality early childhood educational experiences to CDA[®] students.

COUNCIL
for
PROFESSIONAL
RECOGNITION



Introducing CDA Gold StandardSM

The Council is pleased to provide CDA Gold StandardSM as a recognizable symbol of high-quality training programs and student services. Research on programs offering training in early childhood education shows a wide variation in the quality of training experiences available. This creates a challenge for students seeking reliable sources of professional training. The Council's CDA Gold StandardSM provides public recognition to early childhood education organizations that demonstrate their commitment to advancing professional development and training for CDA[®] students.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CDA GOLD STANDARDSM

CDA Gold StandardSM validates and acknowledges:

HIGH-QUALITY training and professional development provided to early educators aligned with the CDA[®] Subject Areas.

COLLABORATION with the Council, spotlighting CDA[®] Gold StandardSM awardees and providing direction to CDA[®] students.

DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT to improving practitioners' skills as early childhood educators and the advancement of the ECE profession.

WHY CDA GOLD STANDARDSM?

The Council's CDA Gold StandardSM addresses a critical need of students seeking quality CDA[®] training. Early childhood educators, in the U.S. and around the world, contact the Council daily seeking guidance with selecting a training organization. Now the Council is offering a reliable and sustainable system to identify and recognize professional development training programs and organizations that provide high-quality training.

CDA[®] Students and Employers want:

- Consistent quality and relevant content from a reputable training program or organization.
- Coursework and training that is aligned with the Council's Eight CDA[®] Subject Areas.
- Assurance of ethical business policies and practices.
- Support for their success, including access to advising on the additional steps required beyond training to qualify to receive a CDA[®].
- Programs designed to accommodate the needs of all students, for example - those who are bilingual, multilingual or geographically isolated students.

Two Types of CDA Gold StandardSM

CDA Gold StandardSM is available for CDA[®] professional development training organizations as:



CDA GOLD STANDARDSM COMPREHENSIVE

is designed for organizations that offer CDA[®] coursework encompassing the entire CDA[®] preparation process and specifically meet the Eight (8) CDA[®] Subject Areas. Training standards require ten (10) hours for each of the Eight (8) CDA[®] Subject Areas and a total of 120 clock hours of study.



CDA GOLD STANDARDSM SELECT

is designed for organizations that offer CDA[®] coursework in at least four (4) of the Eight (8) CDA[®] Subject Areas. Training standards require ten (10) hours for each of the four courses selected from the list of Eight (8) CDA[®] Subject Areas and a total of 60 clock hours of study.

Who Should Apply for the CDA Gold StandardSM?

The CDA Gold StandardSM is available to organizations offering training and professional development in early childhood education, such as, but not limited to:

- Non-profit and For-profit Organizations
- Higher Education Institutions
- Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
- High School Early Childhood/Child Development Programs
- Private Training Organizations
- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Tribal Organizations
- Military
- Religious Organizations

To be eligible to apply, organizations must complete a self-assessment that meets the following two pre-qualifications:

1. Must have offered CDA[®] coursework for at least the past three full and consecutive calendar years without interruption of services*; and,
2. Must offer services that support CDA[®] students throughout their CDA[®] training and application process.

* Under special circumstances an exception to this requirement may be granted. A waiver request will be required and if approved, a special application process will be initiated. For more information send an email to goldstandard@cdacouncil.org.



Why the CDA Gold StandardSM

Current CDA Gold StandardSM recipients from our 2017 pilot programs:

“It was a great opportunity to reflect about our CDA program, what has been done and what still could be done.”

— Esteban Morales, CentroNía

“The process was rewarding. It forced us (in a good way) to look at additional standards, other than NAEYC, to ensure we are meeting the needs of the students we serve.”

— Bweikia Steen, Trinity University

“We are very excited about the process and what this will do for Candidates and the field.”

— Mary Muhs, Rasmussen College

What is Required of My Organization?

After completing the self-assessment and determining whether your organization meets the eligibility requirements, your application must then demonstrate your ability to meet the CDA Gold StandardSM criteria outlined below. These principles represent the foundation of the CDA Gold StandardSM.

PRINCIPLE I: BUSINESS POLICIES AND PRACTICES

CDA Gold StandardSM organizations must maintain high-quality services and meet the needs of CDA[®] students by demonstrating sound business policies and practices. In the education profession, this means ensuring solid business practices, policies, and organizational commitment to best practices in preparing early childhood educators.

PRINCIPLE II: QUALITY STUDENT SERVICES

Quality student services are directly related to the organization's ability to offer the CDA[®] student a professional development preparation experience that supports and enhances their learning.

PRINCIPLE III: ALIGNMENT WITH THE CDA[®] SUBJECT AREAS

Organizations must complete a CDA[®] Education Coursework Alignment which demonstrates how CDA[®] coursework aligns with required CDA[®] Subject Areas. These areas comprise the core knowledge used daily in early childhood education programs.



THE CDA[®] EDUCATION COURSEWORK ALIGNMENT (CECA)

The alignment review is an in-depth evaluation of the CDA[®] coursework information submitted by an organization to determine if it aligns with the educational criteria and requirements set forth by the Council concerning the CDA[®] subject areas and settings.

SITE VISIT REVIEW

Each organization is required to successfully complete a Site Visit Review by a Gold Standard Specialist (GSS). The goal of the visit is to verify information submitted in the online application and to ensure course alignment with the Council's CDA[®] Subject Areas.

A CDA Gold StandardSM Site Visit Review is about three to five hours long, depending on setting type and training modality. It includes three major components: A CDA[®] Instructor Interview, a Course Observation of a CDA-related course, and an Organizational Interview.

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