

EARLY EDUCATOR'S CREDENTIALING PROGRAM

"UPO HELPED ME GROW"



UPO's Office of Early Learning (OEL) has greatly expanded the Early Educators Credentialing Program formerly known as the Child Development Associate Program (CDA). We developed the program because we saw the great need for **dynamic**, **passionate early childhood professionals** — so we took it upon ourselves to help them grow! Our program has scholarships, funded academic opportunities, and a progressive credentialing program starting with the CDA and extending to a full Master's degree.

1) UPO Child Development Associate Credentialing Program

UPO's CDA Program starts with entry-level professionals. OEL gives essential foundational early childhood skills and offers the candidate the chance to experience intentional teaching practices in an infant/toddler classroom. The candidate gains knowledge of how to support positive outcomes for children and their families.

2) AA and BA Degree Programs

OEL-EECP collaborates with Higher Educational Institutions to provide AA and BA degrees for OEL early educators who wish to thrive in their careers.

3) Master's Degree Programs

Again, OEL-EECP collaborates with Higher Educational Institutions. This degree prepares early educators to pursue teaching, advocacy, and leadership roles in early education settings and beyond.

Obtain Your Child Development Associate Credential

STEP 1

Attend UPO Workforce Institute (WFI) Informaiton Session

STEP 2

Participate in 120 instructional hours (13 weeks) of early childhood capacity building course.

Compliance documents due before you are placed at a UPO Early Learning Center

CDA Portfolio 100% completed

STEP 3

Complete 480 Practicum hours (15 weeks)

Hands-on experience at 1 of UPO's 17 Early Learning Centers.

Stipend provided

STEP 4

Complete initial CDA application on The Council of Professional Recognition website

CDA Exam

Verification visit with a PD specialist

STEP 5

CDA Awarded by The Council of Professional Recognition

Begin Hiring process with UPO for a teaching position

Higher Educational Institution Partners

American University • Bowie State University • Denmark Technical College

Montgomery College • Prince George's Community College

Rasmussen University • Trinity Washington University

University of the District of Columbia

University of the Potomac Walden University

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Early Educator's Credentialing Program

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To enroll in the Child Development Program:

Text ICAN to 41444 www.upo.org/training