

You've learned the skills. You have the knowledge. NOW GO FOR THE INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION . . .



Child Development Associate Certification

ABOUT Ozarka's Early Childhood Development/Education programs:

Technical Certificate in Early Childhood Education- https://www.ozarka.edu/program_details.cfm?prg_cod=4497

Certificate of Proficiency in Early Childhood Development- https://www.ozarka.edu/program_details.cfm?prg_cod=4919

ABOUT the infants and toddlers CDA credential: http://www.cdacouncil.org/storage/documents/IT-Flyer_eng.pdf

ABOUT the preschool CDA credential: <http://www.cdacouncil.org/credentials/apply-for-cda/preschool>

The **CDA National Credentialing Program** is a major effort to enhance the quality of child-care by defining, evaluating, and recognizing the competence of child-care providers. Satisfactory completion of the Certificate of Proficiency program qualifies a graduate to write the Child Development Associate examination, which is administered by the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition.

Why should I get certified?

- To improve your employability in a child care environment
- To meet job requirements
- To boost your earnings potential as a child care provider

When, how, and where can I be certified?

Upon successful completion of the ECD block of classes, which includes completing 480 clock hours of on-the-job training (practicum), you may sign up to take the certification exam. Apply at <http://www.cdacouncil.org/credentials/apply-for-cda>. The certification exam consists of an observation session in which a CDA Professional Development specialist will observe you in a child care setting, plus a written exam given at a testing site. Local testing sites include Little Rock, Mountain Home, Beebe and Leslie.

How much does the test cost? \$425

How can I pay for the test? Suggestions:

- If you are receiving federal or state financial aid, plan in advance to reserve some of your Pell refund, student government loan disbursement, or other financial aid disbursement so that you have the funds available at the end of the semester. (This is the BEST way to do it! Consider the cost of the test as part of the cost of your education—save money to COMPLETE your education.)
- Try to save about \$25 per week over the entire semester. After 16 weeks, you will have saved \$400!
- Check with your advisor about opportunities that might be available to reimburse you for some or all of the test fee.
- Talk to your child care employer about the TEACH Arkansas scholarship.

How can I best prepare for the test?

- Study the text book you used in your classes
- Keep your portfolio updated and in order—you will be required to show this for the observation portion of your exam