

## Your Pathway to Success

**1** Apply for the Scholars program.

**2** Enroll in Pathway.

**3** Pass the Pathway Competency Test.

**4** Apply for the Assessment Scholarship.

**5** Complete the national test.

**6** National Credential earned!

**7** Boost your career and go to college to earn a Certificate of Mastery!

Photo courtesy of Oklahoma City Community College



Photo courtesy of Rogers State University

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.okhighered.org/scholars](http://www.okhighered.org/scholars)

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# The Pathway to a National Credential for Child Care Professionals

# Just Like You



Scholars for Excellence in Child Care

 OKLAHOMA Human Services

 OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
Improving our future by degrees

# Advance Your Career to Earn More

## The National CDA Credential

The **Child Development Associate (CDA)** is the most recognized child care credential in the United States. It is nationally transferable and is considered to be a key credential in the early childhood education profession.

By earning a CDA, early child care professionals will develop core competency skills. You will learn how to nurture children in terms of emotional, physical, intellectual and social development. Visit [www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org) for more information.

## The Certified CCP Credential

Professionals exhibiting standards of excellence in child care and early childhood education are recognized by the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) system. The NECPA Commission, Inc. awards a national credential, the **Certified Child Care Professional (CCP)**.

The CCP is a credential earned by teachers who wish to demonstrate their knowledge of early childhood development and their skills in working with young children. The CCP authenticates teaching skills and professionalism. Visit [www.necpa.net/ccp.php](http://www.necpa.net/ccp.php) for more information.

## Benefits of Earning a Credential

- Increased knowledge
- Increased confidence
- Increased opportunity for better pay, recognition and a sense of accomplishment
- Improved job performance and service to children and families
- Reinforce commitment to child development
- Professional achievement that validates knowledge and skills in child development



Photos courtesy of Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City

## The Pathway to Your National Credential

You can begin training by enrolling in the **Pathway** program offered at many career technology centers in Oklahoma. The **Pathway** program provides comprehensive child development training and prepares child care providers for a national credential.

## Pathway Program Benefits

- Convenient class scheduling options — traditional and online course available
- Potential to earn college credit toward an A.A./A.S. degree
- Highly qualified instructors
- Technical assistance
- Networking and hands-on learning opportunities
- Participation in Oklahoma Registry: Professional Development Ladder
- Complete your professional portfolio

## Paying for Training

Students enrolled in the **Pathway** program at technology centers may be eligible for the **Scholars for Excellence in Child Care** program scholarship.

With the **Scholars** program, you can:

- Get **free** books.
- Pay only 10% of tuition costs.
- Earn Pell Grants for additional aid, if qualified.

## Scholars Program Eligibility

To qualify for the Scholars program, child care providers must:

- Be employed at a licensed child care facility at least six months before beginning coursework.
- Be employed in a licensed child care facility participating in the state QRIS program with a rating of one star or higher.
- Be employed as a teacher, assistant director, director, family child care provider assistant, or family child care provider working at least 30 hours per week.
- Agree to be on a child development or early childhood education plan of study.



of Northern Oklahoma College