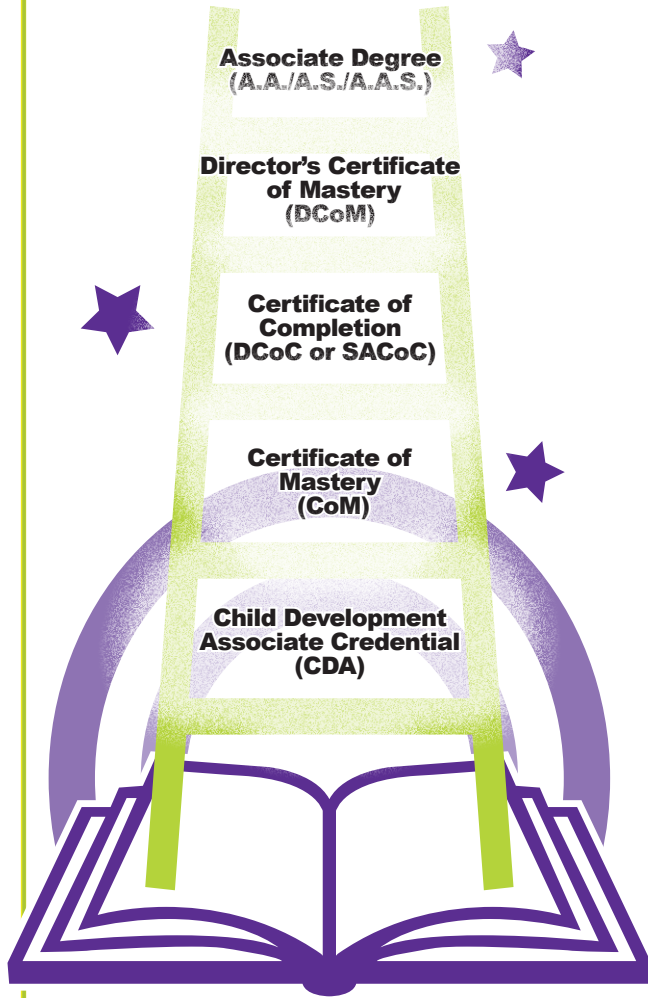


Scholar education options in child development



For more information, visit:
www.okhighered.org/scholars

For assistance, contact:
Quen Wilczek, Scholarship Administrator
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
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Scholarships for Child Care Professionals

Just Like You



Photo courtesy of Oklahoma City Community College

Photo courtesy of Rogers State University

Scholars for
Excellence
in Child Care



Advance Your Career to Earn More

Take a step toward success

There are many steps you can take to advance your career as a child care professional. The first step is to begin your education to earn credentials such as the **Child Development Associate (CDA)** credential and the **Certificate of Mastery**. Earning these credentials can lead to many career benefits. From there, many options are available for furthering your education to heighten your career.

The **Scholars** program provides a sequential professional development path for teachers, directors and family child care home providers (or child care professionals) and scholarship support while taking courses leading to a credential in child development.

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

Scholarship 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



How to pay for it

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

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



Support and assistance

Being a scholar is a collaborative process between you and the **Scholars** program. Working closely with your scholar coordinator can help you set and achieve goals, connect with campus resources and make responsible decisions consistent with your interests, goals, abilities and credential.

The **Scholars** program promotes scholar success by empowering scholars to take responsibility for achieving their academic and professional goals.

Scholar coordinators:

- Provide support services and technical assistance.
- Help scholars navigate through the entire process, from the application for the scholarship, admissions and financial aid to credential completion.
- Provide academic and career advisement to ensure scholars' success.
- Provide guidance in exploring scholars' credential options to ensure compatibility with educational and professional goals.

