

CDA and CDA Equivalencies

A Guide to Meeting Industry
Standards

Industry Standards are Changing.

- Teachers working in NAEYC accredited sites must possess CDAs or CDA Equivalencies that carry 12 college credits.
- Some programs, such as Head Start are now requiring staff to start working toward the associates (two year degree) in ECE.

Helping you meet the standards:

- The Sarasota County Technical Institute and Manatee Community College are working collaboratively to assure that your certificate meets the standards of our industry.
- We want this process to be clear and affordable for you.

MCC/SCTI Higher Education Agreement:

- Teachers who obtain certificates from SCTI (or other Sarasota County School Department ECE programs) are awarded college credit for this coursework after they transfer into the MCC ECE associates program.

SCTI and Sarasota County School Department graduates:

- Dependent on the year of your graduation and the quality of your portfolio, you may earn 9 – 12 college credits for your CDA or CDAE coursework.
- Students who graduated prior to 2006-07 are awarded 9 college credits.
- Students graduating in 06-07 and later may be awarded up to 12 college credits.
- Portfolios must be in compliance with current DCF Florida Child Care Professional Certificate criteria.

SCTI / Sarasota County Schools ECE Graduates Higher Education Pathway:

Enroll in MCC's ECE Associates of Applied Sciences program.

Complete one semester in the program.

Apply for college credit for your work at SCTI or other Sarasota School District ECE program.

YMCA Gold Seal Project CDA Equivalencies

- If you earned a CDA through the YMCA's Gold Seal Project, your certificate and coursework are valid.
- However, MCC cannot award college credit for your CDAE.
- You may only be awarded college credit by enrolling at SCTI and completing two courses.
- SCTI will evaluate your work with the Gold Seal Project.
- We will award an ECE certificate based on your work in the project and your successful completion of two classes at SCTI.
- You may then continue your education in the associates degree at MCC.

YMCA Gold Seal Project CDAE Pathway to Higher Education:

Gold Seal CDAE

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graph TD; A[Gold Seal CDAE] --> B[Begin with SCTI]; A --> C[Begin at MCC]; B --> D[Transfer to MCC];
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Begin with SCTI

Enroll in our evening program.
Successfully complete two classes
Have YMCA coursework evaluated
Earn a Certificate in ECE

Begin at MCC

Enroll in the ECE Associates program.
Start from the beginning in the program:
No credit given for past coursework.

Transfer to MCC

Enroll in the ECE Associates program.
Apply to have 12 college credits for your
SCTI and Y program coursework awarded.

The award of College Credit:

- The award of college credit for your CDA / CDAE saves you money.
- As a SCTI or Sarasota County Schools ECE graduate, you do not need to pay the cost of these credits at MCC. You pay only the cost of the training program you have attended.
- If you complete SCTI's Apprenticeship program or one of the school district's ECE programs, then your training is free!
- MCC awards ECE credits for our graduates free of charge.
- 12 college credits free of charge: WOW!

Trouble-shooting:

- What if you graduated at a time when only 9 credits were awarded for your CDA / CDAE coursework?
- Your transcript must be evaluated at SCTI to determine requirements you have met. We will send this information to MCC for you.
- Remember: SCTI does not award college credit. MCC does. In order to be awarded the 12 credits necessary for the NAEYC standards, you will need to enroll at MCC in the ECE associates program.

Trouble-shooting:

- What if you want to earn a Bachelor's Degree in ECE? Will the coursework from SCTI work for that?
- Yes. When you transfer into MCC, you must enroll in the AAS program.
- If you decide that you want to continue for a Bachelor's Degree, you must switch into the AS program.
- You may earn a BS in ECE through USF.

Why do all this?

- Industry standards are changing.
- In order to meet the standards, you must continue your education.
- By starting with SCTI you may earn up to 12 college credits towards your associates degree in early care and education at a free or reduced cost.
- Transferring to MCC, your journey as a professional interested in meeting the industry standards continues.
- Who knows...maybe you will continue on for a Bachelor's Degree!!

Collaboration:

- MCC and SCTI are working diligently to assure your success in meeting the new ECE industry standards.
- Together we are improving the world of early care and education. Congratulations on your contributions in this endeavor.
- If you have any questions regarding the status of your certificate, please call Kathleen Sullivan at SCTI for consultation: 924 – 1365 * 62010.