
TOHONO O'ODHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Syllabus: ECE 229 CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) DIRECT ASSESSMENT

Course Information

Course Prefix/Number: ECE 229

Semester: Fall 2017

Class Days/Times: Tuesdays as per Schedule
4:00 P.M. – 7:15 P.M.

Credit Hours: 4

Course Title: Child Development Associate (CDA) Direct Assessment

Location: PY Education Center

Room: 243

Instructor Information:

Patty Todd

Phone/Voice Mail/Text: 520-623-6037

E-mail: ptodd@tocc.edu

Office hours: 3:30 - 4:00 Tuesdays

Phone/Text Hours: 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM M-F

Course Description:

This course prepares students for earning their National CDA Credential from the Council for Professional Recognition. Using the CDA Competency Standards book for their preferred Credential (Infant/Toddler, Preschool, Home Base or Family Child Care) as their text, students follow the well-defined guidelines provided to ensure readiness for submitting their CDA Direct Assessment request to the Council.

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Course Objectives:

During this course students will:

- Create a Professional Portfolio
- Educate families about the criteria included in a Family Questionnaire
- Prepare for passing a national test in the field of early childhood education
- Prepare for an observation by a CDA Professional Development Specialist
- Write self reflections, competency statements, and Professional Philosophy

After completion of the course students will be able to:

- Maintain their Professional Portfolio using an organizational tool that defines the order and content to be included
- Explain to family members the developmentally-appropriate education they provide to the children
- Pass a national test that assesses their knowledge in the field of early childhood education
- Use an observational tool to self-assess their skill level in working with the children in the environmental setting in which they work
- Write reflections, competency statements, and a Professional Philosophy

Cultural Component:

Discussions involving Tohono O'odham and/or Pascua Yaqui traditions and cultural beliefs are an integral part of this course. The course explores ways in which cultural beliefs and practices influence young children's development and attitudes. It also explores the impact that teachers, families and community members can have on preserving and revitalizing Tohono O'odham and/or Pascua Yaqui culture and language.

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Course Outline:

- Introduction and overview of the requirements that need to be met in order to submit a Direct Assessment request to the Council for Professional Recognition.
- Criteria required for creating the Professional Portfolio.
- Distribution and collection of the Family Questionnaires.
- Writing reflections, competency statements and a Professional Philosophy.
- Conducting a self-assessment using the CDA Comprehensive Scoring Instrument observation tool.
- Practicing for the national CDA exam.
- Practicing for the Direct Assessment visit by the national Professional Development Specialist.

Text: The Child Development Associate National Credentialing Program and CDA Competency Standards, *Educational Setting Specific Edition*.

Other Materials: Relevant articles, videos, and research links will be provided throughout the course.

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Assessment Measures:

1. Student will create a professional portfolio resource collection that meets the defined criteria of the Council for Professional Recognition. The nine learning activities and ten children's book bibliographies will reflect the culture of the children.
2. Student will prepare families for completing a CDA Family Questionnaire. Returned Family Questionnaires will have a majority of level 3 ratings on the questions.
3. Student will take a practice test in preparation for the national CDA exam.
4. Student will use the CDA Comprehensive Scoring Instrument to self-assess their competence working with children.
5. Student will be observed by the course instructor as they work with children.
6. After the classroom observation session the student and course instructor will complete a Reflective Dialogue Worksheet identifying areas of strength and areas for future professional growth.
8. Student will write reflections and competency statements for each of the six Competency Standards and corresponding 13 Functional Areas.
9. Student will write a Professional Philosophy Statement.

Assignment Schedule:

(see attached document for details of the assigned assessment measures listed above)

Grading policy:

A = Attend all classes; submit all required assignments on time.

B = Miss up to 3 classes with excused absences; submit all assignments. Extra credit makeup assignments can be submitted based on discussion and approval by the instructor.

C = Miss up to 4 classes with excused absences; submit all assignments and pre-approved extra credit makeup assignments.

D = Miss more than 4 classes; submit less than 100% of assignments.

F = Miss more than 4 classes; submit no assignments.

Expectations: 100% attendance, participation in all forum assignments and submission of all homework assignments. Your initial grade is an A.

Required: You MUST call or text me at 520-623-6037, or email me at

patty.desert@yahoo.com if you will be missing a class for it to count as an excused absence.

I check my phone and email frequently, so please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or information that you may need to clarify or complete assignments.

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is designed to evolve and change throughout the semester based on class progress and interests. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.