Outline of Instruction

Division: Science/Mathematics  Area: Early Childhood Development
Course Number: ECDV 101  Course Name: Introduction to CDA
Prerequisite: NONE  Corequisite: NONE

Course Description/Purpose

This course is designed to help students planning to complete the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credentialing Assessment by providing information on the process. Students will learn how to apply, how to develop a portfolio, how to write entries, how to document entries and how to coordinate the readiness and assessment phases of CDA. The CDA Direct Assessment is done by a team composed of the advisor, a parent/community representative and a representative of CDA. Students must also provide verification of 480 clock hours of working with young children during the immediate past five years, in addition to the required coursework. NOTE: The successful completion of this course does not guarantee receiving the CDA Credential.

Major Units

- Safe, Healthy Learning Environment
- How Children Grow and Learn
- Positive Ways to Support Children’s Social-Emotional, Physical, and Cognitive Development
- Productive Relationships with Families

Educational/Course Outcomes

Student learning will be assessed by a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, quizzes and tests, journals, essays, papers, projects, laboratory/clinical exercises and examinations, presentations, simulations, portfolios, homework assignments, and instructor observations.

Cognitive

Each student will be expected to Identify/Recognize . . .

- what Early Childhood Education is
- the NAEYC Statement of Commitment and Code of Ethical Conduct
- the characteristics of children birth–age 8
- how to use child observations to make developmental assessments
- how to incorporate safety into the daily curriculum
- how to be prepared for emergencies
- principles of good nutrition
- how to plan an environment that promotes play, encourages curiosity, exploration, and problem solving
- how to select appropriate activities and learning materials
- how to establish a schedule
- how to provide positive guidance in helping children learn to get along with others
Performance Each student will be expected to Demonstrate/Practice. . .

• how teachers of young children prepare the environment to create learning opportunities
• reasonable expectations for each individual and age group
• offer age-appropriate activities
• the teaching of safe behaviors to children
• an understanding of the recommended schedule for active immunization of infants and children
• be alerted to special health conditions—allergies . . .
• the properties of a clean and sanitary environment
• an understanding of state requirements for food service preparation and selection
• a schedule that is flexible, balances quiet and active play and considers the child’s needs
• an understanding of basic principles involved in designing a space for young children