

## Award of Completion: Initial Early Childhood Education Certificate

Northwest Indian College offers an alternative to the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, entitled, “Award of Completion – Initial ECE Certificate.” This fully meets the requirements of the Head Start Act of 2007 for staff qualifications (Section 648A) for:

- a. A teacher requesting a 3-year waiver as he / she works to achieve a degree in Early Childhood Education or
- b. A teaching assistant who needs a CDA or needs to be enrolled in a CDA credential program or an Early Childhood Education degree program.

It has also been approved by Washington State’s Department of Early Learning, and thus meets the current minimum education WAC requirement (WAC 170-296A-1725) for licensed Family Child Care providers:

- a. Licensee minimum education: High School Diploma or completion of the department approved early childhood education initial certificate.

Furthermore, Washington State’s Department of Early Learning uses a Professional Development Achievement framework to recognize and reward the educational achievements of all early learning professionals by awarding those who have earned degrees, certificates and credentials, including NWIC’s “Award of Completion - Initial ECE Certificate.”

NWIC’s “Award of Completion – Initial ECE Certificate” is very useful, therefore, not only to early childhood educators who work in Tribal Head Start programs and licensed family child care providers, but also to any individual pursuing a career in the broader field of early learning.

Initial ECE Certificate			
Course	Title	No. of Credits	Course Description
ECED 101	Introduction to Early Childhood	5	Explores the foundations of early childhood education. Examines theories defining the field, issues and trends, best practices and program models. Requires observation of

	Education		children, professionals, and programs in action.
ECED 1114	Health, Safety, and Nutrition	5	Develop knowledge and skills to ensure good health, nutrition, and safety of children in group care and education programs. Recognize the signs of abuse and neglect, responsibilities for mandated reporting, and available community resources.
ECED 197A	Practicum I: Expressing Warmth to Children	3	Offers a series of tasks coupled with a weekly seminar to investigate the student's own actions, articulate their fundamental values to others, deeply enhance their ability to connect with young children in their care, and improve their effectiveness as teachers.

All of the courses are taught as hybrid courses. Students access their coursework through Canvas, our Learning Management System, and attend a weekly check-in session, through Canvas' built-in videoconferencing feature (which requires a computer with high-speed internet and a webcam).

The weekly check-in gives students the opportunity to come together as a class and as a learning community, to connect with one another, ask clarifying questions about assignments and expectations, give feedback to each other, and support one another's progress toward achieving the course outcomes.

The practicum course (ECED 197A) is comprised of a 50-minute weekly seminar, and it requires students to spend eight hours per week in an early learning program, conducting weekly investigations. Students in this class co-create the course curriculum, as they share about and learn from one another's individual and collective experiences and insights stemming from their observations of young children.