

Equivalent Options for Education

Early Learning and Child Care Providers have options in order to meet licensing Staff Qualifications. These options are known as ‘equivalents’ and they include both experience and credentials. Providers can choose between the education pathways or Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) approved alternatives. To learn more about DCYF-recognized related degrees, review the Alternative Credential Guide at tinyurl.com/AlternativeCredentials.

EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE	ALTERNATIVE CREDENTIALS	
Education Certificates Named in WAC or ECEAP Performance Standards	Experience-Based Competency Demonstration <i>Not available for ECEAP or Early Achievers PD Points</i>	College/Credit Bearing	Training <i>Not available for ECEAP or Early Achievers PD Points</i>
Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE)	Not available	One of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor’s degree in ECE Bachelor’s degree related to ECE (must include a DCYF-recognized related degree major* or 30 college credits* related to the WA ECE State Core Competencies) Associates degree or higher with 30 college credits* related to the WA State ECE Core Competencies (credits may be earned as part of a degree or in addition to the degree) Associates degree or higher + DCYF approved Montessori credential (see list below) A valid WA State Teaching Certificate with an endorsement in ECE (prenatal-grade 3) or Early Childhood Special Education 	Not available
Washington State ECE State Certificate (47 credits)	Not available	Options above or one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> One-year ECE certificate with minimum of 45 aligned credits or related Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) accredited teacher credential in infant/toddler MACTE accredited teacher credential in ECE Association Montessori Internationale diploma in assistants to infancy (birth-3) Association Montessori Internationale diploma in primary (ages 3-6) American Montessori Society diploma - Infant and Toddler (Birth - 3) American Montessori Society diploma - Early Childhood (ages 2 1/2 - 6) Montessori Elementary I (ages 6-9) A current CDA (Child Development Associate Credential) + 35 aligned college credits* 45 aligned college credits* 	Not available
Washington State ECE Short Certificate (20 credits)	Experience-based competency demonstration	Options above or one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20 aligned college credits* A current CDA + eight aligned college credits* 	DCYF Community-Based Training Series (funding dependent)
Washington State ECE Initial Certificate (12 credits)	Experience-based competency demonstration	Options above or one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Military Modules A current CDA (earned at college or in a community-based training) 12 aligned college credits* 	DCYF Community-Based Training Series (funding dependent)
High School Diploma or Equivalent; or Enrolled	Not needed, work toward full education requirement	Options above or GED.	Not available

*College credits must align with the 8 WA State ECE Core Competencies and be verified in the workforce registry (MERIT).

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