

Frequently Asked Questions

Delaware First Qualification Program

Does my degree have to be from a regionally accredited college or university?

- Yes, college and university programs must be regionally accredited and recognized by Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the US Department of Education. To search for recognized accrediting organizations, see the following website: http://www.chea.org/pdf/CHEA_USDE_AllAccred.pdf
- To search for accreditation information on a specific college use the following link: <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>

What if my degree is from another country?

College transcripts and proof of degree from other countries needs to be evaluated by an Independent Credentialing Agency. The agency will translate the transcript (if translation is necessary) and will determine how the coursework in education equates to coursework offered at American colleges and universities.

- An official evaluation report should include the following:
 - A course-by-course evaluation of the candidate's non-U.S. coursework as it compares to a four-year college or university program in the U.S.
 - The semester-hour equivalent of each area of college-level study.
 - A translation of course titles into the English language (if applicable)
 - Verification of the completion of teaching certificate and practice/student teaching (if applicable).
- Below is a list of Independent Credentialing Agencies

Name of Agency	Location	Contact Information
International Consultants of Delaware, Inc.	Philadelphia, PA	(215) 222-8454 X510
World Education Services, Inc	New York, NY	(212) 966-6311
Joseph Silny & Associates	Miami, FL	(305) 273-1616
Educational Credentials Evaluators, Inc.	Milwaukee, WI	(414) 289-3400
International Education Research Foundation, Inc.	Culver City, CA	(310) 258-9451

What if I am already a certified teacher and registered in DEEDS?

- Send a copy of your teaching certificate with your application for it to be considered.
- For Early Childhood positions:

- If certified area includes Nursery, Early Childhood, Early Childhood Special Education, Birth to 2nd grade or similar qualifies as Early Childhood Administrator. With this certification you meet both the educational and experience requirement. If specialty area requested, transcript with the specific coursework required.
- If the certified area includes K and above, educator's transcript would need to have 15 early childhood credits in child development/learning, environment/curriculum, social-emotional development, observation/assessment and one three-credit elective in early childhood. You also have to meet experience requirement of working 18 months with children birth through second grade.
- For School-Age positions:
 - If the certified area includes: Elementary Education, Kindergarten and up, Special Education or Middle School, grades up to 8 qualified as School-Age Administrator without reviewing transcript. With this certification you meet both the educational and experience requirement. You would also have a School Age specialty.
 - If the certified area was Secondary Education the transcript would need to be evaluated for courses to meet the requirements. With this certification you would meet the experience requirement.

What does my student teaching count toward?

- A minimum of a 6 credit student teaching course (in the early childhood department or with documentation that experience was with preschool age children or younger) may count as 3 months experience or for Early Childhood Teacher position would meet the experience requirement. A 12 credit student teaching (as defined above) may count as 6 month experience.

What if I believe that a course I took should count for early childhood, but it is not on the list?

- A course description must be provided for consideration. The course description must state that the course is primarily focused on young children and/or their families. Generally, courses that cover the life span or older children do not count.

What if I get a "D" or "F" as my grade in a course?

- Courses for which you do not receive a passing grade do not count towards a qualification.

What if I lost my original certification and need to get a copy of it for my employer or my own records?

- Original certificates of newly issued qualifications cannot be reproduced. An individual must request a copy of their certificate be sent to them or their employer. Copies are mailed out once a week. Please note the copy will be stamped "copy".

What if I have a Paraeducator Permit?

- Paraeducator Certification including Title I Para Permits does not meet educational requirement for position. However, coursework used to earn these certifications will be reviewed.

What if I have child care certification from another state?

- Send a copy of your certificates and any detailed information you have on the other state's education program. Generally, only certificates that include a minimum of 60 hours of classroom work and formal assessment of learning from an accredited training organization will be accepted.

- Common equivalencies include:

Substitutes TECE 1:

- Maryland Level 3 certificate
- Professional Career Development Institute “The Professional Child Day Care Program” diploma
- Wor-Wic Tech I & II (aka Child Care I & II)

Substitutes TECE 1 & 2:

- Maryland Level 4 certificate
- Wilmington Skills Center or Manpower Training Center Child Day Care Aide (older training 700 or more hours)

What does “Successful Completion” mean for the Early Childhood and School Age Intern?

- “Successful Completion” for DE First Intro and Child Development training will be determined based on attendance. At least a minimum of 15 hours must be completed from quality assured training. If you completed a course and you did not complete all 15 hours, you will have to take another course so that you have a total of at least 15 clock hours.

Is financial assistance available to help me further my education and early childhood career?

- There are two programs to assist you financially:
 - [T.E.A.C.H.](#) provides scholarships for those working in licensed early care and education (ECE) or school age program in Delaware. If you qualify, the program may pay a percentage of the cost of tuition and books for some of your credit hour courses. Upon successful completion of coursework, scholarship recipients receive a monetary bonus with a possible \$300 bonus or a 2% raise from the sponsoring employer depending on the scholarship type. Recipients pledge to complete 6 to 12 months of continued service to children at their sponsoring facility or in the field of early care after the educational year depending on scholarship type.
 - [WAGES](#) provides education-based salary supplements to underpaid teachers, directors, administrators and family child care providers, working with children birth thru five. The participant must be working in a regulated (STARS) early care and education setting. The program must be a STAR 3 or higher. The initiative is designed to increase workforce retention, education and compensation. The WAGES® participant receives a salary supplement every six (6) months depending upon their level of education and retention in their program.
 - More information about these programs can be found via the links noted above