

FAQ

How do I apply?

To receive an application, ask questions or discuss this opportunity, please contact Danielle Beamer, Career Advisor, Durango Adult Education Center at dbeamer@durangoadulted.org, 970-385-4354 (office), 970-259-2094 (cell). Applications received by June 13th, 2022, will be given preference.

How does the scholarship work?

For those accepted, we will provide a scholarship ranging from 90-95% of tuition and fees. We ask for a small contribution of 5-10% from students or their employers to ensure buy-in. For those with significant financial need, we will work to leverage other funds as well to make sure that education is not a financial burden. We will work with any eligible student to create a plan that will work for you.

Why is this a cohort program?

We want to do our best to help ECE professionals feel confident in their skills and the industry. Creating a network of colleagues who complete a series of courses together provides education in the context of relationships; ideally, this means the learning is personally meaningful and participants build social capital. In addition, committing to supporting students through an entire certification, rather than course by course, allows educators to plan ahead, reduces administration, and prioritizes career advancement. In other words, it's easier than going through the scholarship process every semester!

What are virtual classes like?

Virtual classes are much like regular classes, but students participate synchronously over Zoom from their chosen location rather than on a college campus. This means students are expected to have their cameras turned on and engage in small group and large group activities throughout class times. Students will also have assignments to complete throughout the semester.

What is an accelerated course?

The virtual classes at CNCC are eight weeks rather than the traditional 16 weeks. CNCC understands that early childhood professionals have educational goals and priorities. For many years, the college has worked with students and leaders in the field to condense 16 weeks of content into 8 weeks without sacrificing the integrity and quality of a college course.

What do I need to participate in classes?

You will need a stable internet connection, a device with a camera for attending class virtually and completing assignments, and the ability to attend evening class generally one night per week (in the second half of the spring semester students will have class two nights per week for 8 weeks). If you need support with internet or a device, we may be able to support you so don't let that be the reason you decide not to apply. If using a computer is new for you, we can support you in navigating the CNCC system, just let us know before classes start so that we have time to ensure you're ready.

What if I'm not already working in early childhood education?

You can still apply and we can help you connect with centers that are hiring. In addition to your college courses, you will need three months of full-time experience to earn your Teacher Certificate.

Furthermore, one lab course is required (ECE 1045) so if you aren't working in the field by the time you take this course (March 2023) we will help you find a center where you can get hours. Because the cohort is three semesters long, we are confident that those enrolled will be able to attain employment for their necessary hours.

We're in Southwest Colorado so why are the classes through Colorado Northwest Community College?

Good question! CNCC has been serving the early childhood educators in our region for many years. CNCC's unique accelerated and virtual classes are accessible, affordable and a good fit for many learners. In addition, CNCC has partnered with other regions to put together cohorts similar to this one, so they know a lot about what works. While CNCC is far away, they are very responsive. And the Durango Adult Education Center is here to advocate on the behalf of students and make sure that ECE professionals have support outside the classroom as well.

What if I've already taken some ECE classes?

We want to include as many folks as possible so if you've already taken some classes but are still interested in the cohort, reach out to Danielle to discuss your individual situation. You may still be a good fit for the cohort and if not, we still have our regular semester scholarships and can provide you more information about that.

What if I'm already teacher qualified and want to work on director qualification, director renewal, or an ECE degree?

This cohort is not replacing our existing scholarship program, we are still supporting professionals seeking director qualification, renewal, and degrees. We are also still providing intensive summer courses through Fort Lewis College so if any of these apply to you, get in touch!

What will this certificate do for me?

The Teacher Certificate will allow you to work as a lead teacher in an early childhood classroom. This cohort provides one pathway to this qualification but there are other ways as well and we are happy to discuss those with you. Danielle, our Career Advisor is here to help all ECE professionals in La Plata, Montezuma, Archuleta, San Juan, and Dolores counties navigate the various requirements in the field. The teacher certificate is also stackable meaning that it sets you up to earn director qualification with the completion of four more classes or a degree in ECE.