

The TECTA Career Lattice

TECTA believes professional development through higher education should be an essential component of your career growth. Just like your other goals, we encourage you to develop a personalized education pathway based on your career plans, while also keeping your life in perspective.

The TECTA Career Lattice is our planning guide to help you create your personalized education pathway. Unlike a career “ladder” that describes a specific path for career advancement, a lattice represents flexible pathways for education and development in multiple directions and areas, representing the many different types of jobs available as you move vertically, horizontally, and laterally through a career in early childhood.

Contact your local TECTA office for more information about how to get started. TECTA staff are available to discuss the training, education, and professional development opportunities that will help you accomplish your career goals.

Graduate Degrees
M.S., M.Ed.,
Ph.D., Ed.D.

Bachelor’s Degrees
B.S., B.A.

Associate Degrees
A.S., A.A.,
A.A.S.

Earn degrees in Early Childhood with support from TECTA

Technical Certificate

Earn 12-15 credit hours toward an Associate Degree

Students who receive a Technical Certificate through TECTA are 12-15 credits closer to earning an Associate Degree, at the same time receiving necessary credits for CDA® renewal.

Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential

After completing Orientation, TECTA provides mentorship and assistance with the application and verification visits required when pursuing the CDA® Credential.

*Courses from an accredited Institution

CDA® Credential Preparation

Earn 12 credit hours toward an Associate Degree or Technical Certificate

ECED 2310 Safe & Healthy Learning Environments
3 Academic Credits*

ECED 2315 Early Childhood Curriculum
3 Academic Credits*

ECED 2335 Clinical Practicum I
3 Academic Credits*
or ECED 1310 Intro to ECE
3 Academic Credits*

ECED 2340 Family Dynamics and Community Involvement
3 Academic Credits*

TECTA Orientation

Earn a TECTA Certificate of Completion

The 30-hour TECTA Orientation is the “gateway” to Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential preparation and degrees, certificates, and credentials in Early Childhood. Choose from five specializations: Administrator, Center-Based, Infant/Toddler, School-Age, and Family Child Care.



Promoting Professionalism and High Quality Child Care in Tennessee

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