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**Career Development Pathways – Next Steps!**

**Congratulations on obtaining your CDA!** Your CDA Credential attests to your experience, knowledge, and ability to apply your learning to the field of early childhood to support the development of young children.

Since the field of early childhood is constantly evolving, it is important to continue your professional growth. Your professional development track is something that you will define, but to get you started we have compiled a series of professional development steps that you can take to move forward in your career over the next three years.

Please note the following are summaries of these processes, and that we have added links so that you get more detailed information about each process. Please feel welcome to reach out to an Atlas Training staff member for additional guidance!

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| **CDA Renewal** | **Conversion of CDA to Credits and Registration for**  **Pathways Exams** | **Entry in a ECE College Program** |
| Your CDA will expire on:  Within six months of your CDA expiration date, you will need to submit your renewal application. Applications received after your renewal date will not be considered.  Renewal Applications must include qualifying evidence of:   * Continuing Education **(we can support you with this!)** * Membership in a professional ECE organization * Minimum of 80 hours of work with children in your endorsement area * Recommendation from ECE reviewer * First Aid and Infant and Child CPR Certification   When you are ready to renew, log in to your online CDA account and select “CDA Renewal”  Follow the instructions to complete your application and submit your payment ($125).  For more information, visit the [CDA Renewal Guide.](https://www.cdacouncil.org/storage/documents/Renewal_Procedures_Guides/CDA_Renewal_Guide_final-071520.pdf) | **Converting your CDA to Credits Through Charter Oak State College:**   * STEP 1: Select the [Credit Registry](https://www.charteroak.edu/credit-registry/CreditRegSPECIAL.pdf) link & fully complete the application with on-line payment. * STEP 2: Call the Council for Professional Recognition at 1-800-424-4310 and request that confirmation of your CDA be sent to Charter Oak State College at [Registrar@charteroak.edu](mailto:Registrar@charteroak.edu) * STEP 3: Once the Registrar’s Office at COSC receives a copy of the CDA verification from the CDA Council, the credits will be added to your advising worksheet!   **Pathways Exams at Charter Oak State College:**   * Review the Pathway Exam options on the [COSC Pathways Brochure](https://www.charteroak.edu/PDF/early-childhood-pathways-exams-brochure.pdf?_ga=2.45389732.16585184.1620578330-1490388659.1609985117) * Complete and submit the [online registration form](https://acorn.charteroak.edu/ICS/Registrar/Pathways_Exam/Default_Page.jnz?portlet=EX_FormFlow_-_Forms) to schedule your exam(s) | Connecticut offers many early childhood degree programs that lead to either an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree.  Review this [list](https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ECTC-Approved-Colleges-2020-REV.pdf) of OEC-approved Early Childhood IHE degree programs in Connecticut to begin your search for a degree program. You can use this [College Directory](https://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/etc/provider_list.asp?strProvType=cip&intCIP6=131210) to find links to each program so you can learn more about the program requirements and course plans!  **Scholarship through**  **Connecticut Charts-A-Course:**   * Review the funding priorities “[At-A-Glance](https://www.ccacregistry.org/index.cfm?module=oecScholarshipAssistanceProgram&navID=nav5)” document on the CCAC Website to see if you qualify. * Log in to the CT Charts-A-Course portal. Under “My Scholarships” select “Request Scholarship Assistance” and enter the information for your request. |

***For career advisement, please feel welcome to reach out to us at***

[***info@atlastrainingcenter.com***](mailto:info@atlastrainingcenter.com) ***for direct, personalized consultation.***