CDA Course Pacing Guide

Use the CDA Course Pacing Guide to “pace” your monthly CDA course work.

- **Want to finish in twelve months?** Follow the pacing guide to complete your CDA course work in one year.
- **Need more time? Or need to finish sooner?** Increase or decrease the number of lessons and amount of coursework completed each month.

The CDA Course Pacing Guide includes:

- **Course lessons**
  Monthly CDA tutorials and core and elective lessons.

- **Required and recommended reading**
  Monthly CDA course readings.

- **Professional Portfolio**
  Monthly items for the Professional Portfolio.
  
  - RC = Resource Collection
  - CS = Competency Statements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th><strong>Course lessons</strong></th>
<th><strong>Required &amp; recommended reading</strong></th>
<th><strong>Professional Portfolio</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sample</td>
<td>CDA 1 Tutorial</td>
<td>CDA Competency Standards book – Introduction and Parts 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>RC I (1-3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CDA 1 Core lessons</td>
<td>Better Kid Care Readings – CDA Subject Area 1</td>
<td>CS 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 lessons, 10 hours</td>
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Links to additional course supports.

CDA Note: Think of this as a course syllabus!

extension.psu.edu/programs/betterkidcare
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| Month 1 | CDA Get Started Tutorial  
CDA 1 Tutorial  
CDA 1 Core lessons  
5 lessons, 10 hours | CDA Competency Standards book – Introduction and Parts 1 & 2  
*Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Introduction and Competency Standard I  
*Essentials Workbook* – Introduction, Competency Standard I  
Better Kid Care Readings – CDA Subject Area 1 | My CDA Cover Sheet  
RC I (1-3)  
CS 1 |
| Month 2 | CDA Tutorial 2  
CDA 2 Core lessons  
5 lessons, 10 hours | *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Competency Standard II  
*Essentials Workbook* – Competency Standard II  
Better Kid Care Readings – CDA Subject Area 2 | RC II (1-9)  
CS II |
| Month 3 | CDA Tutorial 3  
CDA 3 Core lessons  
5 lessons, 10 hours | *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Competency Standard III  
*Essentials Workbook* – Competency Standard III  
Better Kid Care Readings – CDA Subject Area 2 | RC III  
CS III |
| Month 4 | CDA Tutorial 4  
CDA 4 Core lessons  
5 lessons, 10 hours | *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Competency Standard IV  
*Essentials Workbook* – Competency Standard IV  
Better Kid Care Readings – CDA Subject Area 4 | RC IV (1-4)  
CS IV |
| Month 5 | CDA Tutorial 5  
CDA 5 Core lessons  
5 lessons, 10 hours | *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Competency Standard V  
*Essentials Workbook* – Competency Standard V  
Better Kid Care Readings – CDA Subject Area 5 | RC V  
CS V |
| Month 6 | CDA Tutorial 6  
CDA 6 Core lessons  
5 lessons, 10 hours | *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Competency Standard VI  
*Essentials Workbook* – Competency Standard VI  
Better Kid Care Readings – CDA Subject Area 6 | RC VI  
CS VI (1-3) |

Access CDA Course  
Access CDA Required Coursework  
Access Professional Portfolio  
How-to Guide
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Course lessons</th>
<th>Required &amp; recommended reading</th>
<th>Professional Portfolio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete the following:</td>
<td>Read and complete the following:</td>
<td>Complete the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month 7</td>
<td>CDA Tutorial 7&lt;br&gt; CDA 7 Core lessons&lt;br&gt; 5 lessons, 10 hours</td>
<td>CDA Competency Standards book – Part 3&lt;br&gt; Essentials for Working with Young Children – Review Competencies I-VI&lt;br&gt; Essentials Workbook – Review Competencies I-VI&lt;br&gt; Better Kid Care Readings – CDA Subject Area 7</td>
<td>Outline and begin to write your Professional Philosophy Statement&lt;br&gt; Review Professional Portfolio work&lt;br&gt; Review NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month 8</td>
<td>CDA Tutorial 8&lt;br&gt; CDA 8 Core lessons&lt;br&gt; 5 lessons, 10 hours</td>
<td>CDA Competency Standards book – Review Parts 1-3&lt;br&gt; Essentials for Working with Young Children – Review and finish reading&lt;br&gt; Essentials Workbook – Review and finish reading&lt;br&gt; Better Kid Care Readings – CDA Subject Area 8</td>
<td>Finish your Professional Philosophy Statement&lt;br&gt; Review Professional Portfolio work&lt;br&gt; Review NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct</td>
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Access CDA Course<br>Access CDA Required Coursework<br>Access Professional Portfolio How-to Guide
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<th>Month</th>
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<th>Required &amp; recommended reading</th>
<th>Professional Portfolio</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Month 12</td>
<td>CDA Electives</td>
<td><strong>CDA Competency Standards book</strong> – Review CDA checklist &amp; Part 3 (including all forms)</td>
<td>Complete your Professional Portfolio and review the My CDA Professional Portfolio checklist in CDA Competency Standards book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select 5 lessons, 10 hours</td>
<td>Essentials for Working with Young Children – Review and finish reading</td>
<td>Review your CDA Checklist to prepare for next steps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CDA Get Ready to Finish Tutorial</td>
<td>Essentials Workbook – Review and finish reading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CDA Course completed!</td>
<td>Better Kid Care Readings – Review and finish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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**Get Ready to Apply**

- Review CDA Get Ready to Finish Tutorial to help with next steps
- Review CDA Competency Standards book – Review CDA checklist and Part 3 to plan next steps
- Essentials for Working with Young Children – Review
- Essentials Workbook – Review the “Test Your Knowledge” sections to practice for CDA Exam

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**Required Reading**


