



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CORPS AA DEGREE PROGRAM - FAQ'S (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

The Child Development Corps AA Degree Program is designed to encourage and assist early childhood teachers and providers develop the skills and knowledge needed to create and maintain quality early care and education. The Program provides incentives and support to those who are attending community college to earn an AA degree in early care and education (ECE) or to obtain their core training in ECE. The Corps AA Degree Program will offer individual support to help you create an education plan and earn your degree. The program will provide a stipend for meeting requirements and taking classes and is currently available at Chabot College, Las Positas College, Merritt College and Ohlone College.

Frequently asked questions about the AA Degree Program are below. For specific program requirements, guidelines and contact information; refer to the *Joining the Child Development Corps* handout or the Corps AA Degree Program brochure.

Q. DO I APPLY AS A NEW OR RETURNING APPLICANT?

A. The Corps AA Degree program began in 2006. **EVERYONE** must apply as a new applicant the first time you participate in the AA Degree Corps program – even if you received a Corps stipend prior to 2006.

Q. I'M ALREADY TAKING COLLEGE CLASSES. CAN I STILL JOIN THE AA DEGREE PROGRAM?

A. **YES.** You can join the AA Degree Program at any time, even if you have no units or only need a few more to graduate, as long as you meet the eligibility and enrollment requirements.

Q. I HAVE LESS THAN 6 ECE UNITS. CAN I JOIN THE PROGRAM?

A. **Yes.** You can join the program even if you don't have any units yet.

Q. I DON'T HAVE A VALID CHILD DEVELOPMENT PERMIT. DO I NEED ONE?

A. If you have 6 or more ECE units, you must have a permit to participate in the program. If you do not have at least 6 ECE units, you do not need a permit to participate in the program.

Q. I'VE APPLIED FOR MY CHILD DEVELOPMENT PERMIT BUT I DO NOT HAVE IT YET. CAN I JOIN NOW?

A. **NO.** You must have a valid, permanent Child Development Permit. Verification that you have applied for your permit or a temporary permit will not be accepted.

Q. I ALREADY COMPLETED MY COLLEGE ASSESSMENTS AND GE REQUIREMENTS. DO I HAVE TO REPEAT THEM?

A. **NO.** If you have already met any of the enrollment requirements, all you have to do is submit verification to the ECE Professional Development Coordinator at your college. If you think you have met any of the requirements but do not have a Student Education Plan, you must meet with a college counselor to get the plan showing you have completed the requirements.

Q. CAN I ATTEND A COLLEGE NOT ON THE CORPS LIST?

A. The Corps AA Degree program is currently only offered at Chabot, Las Positas, Merritt, and Ohlone colleges. You must complete the Student Education and ECE Professional Development Plans and enroll as a student at one of these colleges. If your Student Education or Professional Development Plan allows you take a class at another college, the units for that class must be transferred to one of the four colleges in order to meet the Corps requirement. Stipends will not be approved and issued until all requirements are met and units are transferred to one of the four colleges.

Q. I ALREADY HAVE AN ECE DEGREE BUT WANT TO TAKE SOME ADDITIONAL ECE CLASSES. CAN I JOIN?

A. NO. The Corps AA Degree Program is only for students who are working toward an AA degree or equivalent in ECE.

Q. I HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE, BUT NOT IN ECE. AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE AA DEGREE PROGRAM?

A. Yes. If you have a degree in an *unrelated field* and less than 32 ECE units, you may be eligible to join the program. If you have a degree in a *related field*, you are not eligible for the program. Related fields are *Human Development, Child Development, Home Economics, Family Science and may include others*. . Meet with a PDC to review your transcripts.

Q. I HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY. CAN I JOIN?

A. Yes. If you have a degree from another country that has been evaluated for U.S. equivalency in an *unrelated field* and less than 32 ECE units you may be eligible to join the program. If you have a degree in a *related field*, you are not eligible for the program. Related fields are *Human Development, Child Development, Home Economics, Family Science and may include others*. You may also be eligible if you have not satisfied U.S. general education English courses. Contact your local Resource and Referral Agency if you need to have your transcript evaluated and then meet with a PDC to review your transcripts.

Q. I AM GOING TO SCHOOL AT ONE OF THE FOUR COLLEGES, BUT I WORK IN ANOTHER COUNTY. AM I ELIGIBLE TO JOIN?

A. NO. You must work in Alameda County to be eligible for the program.

Q. I WORK IN TWO DIFFERENT PROGRAMS FOR A TOTAL OF 15 HOURS A WEEK. CAN I JOIN?

A. NO. You must work in the same program at least 15 hours a week to meet eligibility. If you work in two different classrooms *within* the same program, you may be eligible to join.

Q. I HAVE MET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AA DEGREE BUT HAVE NOT ENROLLED IN THE CORPS. AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT STIPEND?

A. NO. To receive the achievement stipend, you must be enrolled in and participate in the Corps AA degree program for at least one program year. You cannot join the program if you have already completed your education requirements.
