

The Vermont Child Care Industry and Careers Council, Inc. (VCCICC), in partnership with the State of Vermont Child Development Division, is eager to assist students enrolled in your Human Service program in earning Certificates of Proficiency during the school year.

Certificates of Proficiency are formal, industry-recognized certificates awarded to students who demonstrate competency in specific skills crucial to supporting the healthy growth and development of young children. Based on national standards, the Certificates of Proficiency were developed and are administered in partnership with Vermont child care employers, independent industry representatives, and career and technical centers.

Certificates of Proficiency:

- expose students to professional standards required by employers in the field
- clearly state the knowledge and skill demonstrated by the student during an on-site observation and assessment
- can complement a student's professional path towards achieving the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and/or Career Level Certificates that include on-site observation, as outlined by the Vermont Northern Lights Career Development Center (<http://northernlightscdc.org/career-pathways/early-childhood-pathways>)
- afford students the opportunity to interact with a child care industry-approved independent assessor who will provide an unbiased assessment of skills
- encourage students to build confidence in their knowledge and skills
- are recognized for advanced standing in the Vermont Department of Labor approved Registered Child Care Apprenticeship Program
- are signed by the Governor, Commissioners of the Department of Labor and the Department for Children and Families, and the Board President of VCCICC

VCCICC provides materials and works with the instructor, the student's on-site child care supervisor, independent assessors, and the State of Vermont to award these Certificates. The process meets the **gold standard for quality** as defined by the U.S. Department of Education and meets the requirements of 2006 Perkins legislation for certificates of this type.

VCCICC staff is available to present this information to current or potential students in your program. To schedule a meeting or for general questions, please contact VCCICC at 802-985-2700. Our goal is to complement your program in preparing students for success in the early education field. Thank you for your support of students interested in entering Vermont's child care workforce!