

Apprenticeship
For Child
Development
Specialist

Counties currently
offering classes:

- Berkeley
- Cabell
- Greenbrier
- Hancock
- Hardy
- Harrison
- Kanawha
- Logan
- Mercer
- Monongalia
- Nicholas
- Ohio
- Putnam
- Raleigh
- Upshur
- Wood

ACDS Quarterly Newsletter



Summer 2021

Face to Face Classes Resume

We are going back to in-person classes this fall! We have heard from many instructors and students that they are ready to return to our regular class format.

We do appreciate everyone's patience over the past year and a half while we held all classes virtually. We had some bumps in transferring the registration and classes to virtual formats, but together we got through it.

Moving forward, ACDS will offer one virtual class for each semester. Priority for these virtual classes will go to counties not offering in-

person classes. After those counties have the opportunity to register, we will add other students to the virtual class based upon request and the date of registration. Each virtual class will have no more than 15 students. If you are interested in virtual classes, you can let us know by marking the virtual class option box on the new registration form. This registration form is provided with the orientations and is also available on the ACDS website. Just keep in mind, that not everyone that requests virtual classes will be granted permis-

sion since space is limited.

We realize that all returning students have never experienced in-person classes. You may have some questions about what to expect. There is an article in this newsletter that will provide additional information on how to prepare for in-person classes.

Thank you for being a part of our program and we hope you are ready and excited for the upcoming fall semester. Until then, enjoy your summer! ~ *Jennifer*

Spring 2021 Graduates

The following counties had graduating classes this past spring semester.

- ◇ Cabell/Wayne
- ◇ Grant/Hardy/Mineral
- ◇ Greenbrier/Summers
- ◇ Hancock/Brooke
- ◇ Kanawha/Clay
- ◇ Mercer
- ◇ Monongalia/Marion
- ◇ Ohio/Marshall
- ◇ Raleigh/Fayette
- ◇ Wood



For additional
information in-
cluding the fall
schedule, visit
the ACDS web-
site

www.wvacds.org

ACDS Registration & Virtual Classes



The ACDS registration process will remain as it has been for the last couple of semesters. To register for class, you must:

1. Complete the orientation that corresponds to the semester you will be entering.
2. Complete and return an ACDS student registration form. This is part of the orientation, and can

also be found on the ACDS website, www.wvacds.org.

3. Submit \$25.00 registration fee. We accept checks and credit/debit cards.

The registration deadline for the fall 2021 semester is August 20. All of the above steps must be completed by this date to participate in classes.

We are strongly encouraging counties that have not traditionally had enough students to offer in-person classes to enroll in our virtual classes. Now that we have developed and tested virtual lessons, we want to offer the program to every county across the state. Help us spread the word that no matter what county you live in, ACDS is now available to you.

In-person Classes...What to Expect

At the end of each semester, all apprentices and instructors will receive a survey to complete. Please take a few moments and reply to the questions. We appreciate your feedback.



Although, ACDS has traditionally only had in-person classes, recent students have only known virtual lessons and weekly zoom meetings with instructors. Students now may be asking themselves what to expect from in-person classes. They may wonder what they need to take to class and how to be successful.

First, let me reiterate that attendance and submitting homework on time is essential to being successful in class regardless of the format.

Attendance is mandatory and students are only permitted one absence without a penalty. Students also must attend the entire 2.5 hours of class each week.

Any time missed is noted and when the time accumulates to 2.5 hours it will count as an absence. Only three absences a semester are permitted.

Homework is due each week. Semesters 2-4 require assignments to be typed. Points are deducted for late submission.

As far as materials, students will be given handouts on the first night of class. Students will want to place these handouts in a binder and bring them to class each week. Students should also bring a pen/pencil and some paper to take notes and participate in activities.

Most classes do permit you to bring a snack and refreshment. If you do bring

food/drink please clean up after yourself.

Please follow all CDC recommended guidelines regarding COVID 19. If you are unvaccinated we ask that you wear a face covering.

Students will quickly realize that in-person classes involve many group activities and discussions. The ability to engage in activities with other students was one of the big things missing from our virtual classes. We feel that you will benefit from these activities and learn much from other students.

Remember, your instructor is there to guide and support you. Don't hesitate to ask them questions.

Contact Information

ACDS promotes highly skilled, confident early childhood employees, quality early childhood classrooms, and informed supportive early childhood professionals.

Jennifer Conkle

ACDS Statewide Coordinator

Tara Kitts

ACDS Specialist

Contact Information

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This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and is administered by WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, a program of River Valley Child Development Services.

Questions and Answers

- **Where do I send payment?**

Students can pay the registration fee with check, money order, debit or credit card. When paying with check or money order please make payable to RVCDS and mail to 611 7th Avenue Huntington, WV 25701. Please address the envelope to ACDS. When paying with a credit/debit card you must fill out the credit card transaction form and send to ACDS. You can mail that to the above address or email to wvacds@rvcds.org.

- **How will I know I am registered?**

Once you have completed the orientation and submitted the payment and registration form you are registered. It is the student's responsibility to follow up on registration. Student's need to communicate with their employer to ensure that payment has been made prior to the registration deadline.



Testimony

"I appreciate my instructor. She put me at ease when I felt overwhelmed and went above and beyond, taking time out for me when needed. She helped me break things down so they felt achievable." ~ anonymous student



"The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you."

~B.B. King