

### **3 Credit Requirement for REWARD recipients at Registry Level 7 through Level 10**

REWARD participants who receive stipends at Registry Level 7, 8, 9, or 10 need to successfully complete 3 credits of Early Childhood Education (ECE) coursework before their next stipend will be awarded. This is a requirement for each agreement awarded at Level 7, 8, 9, or 10. Participant will not have to meet this requirement once they become Registry Level 11 or higher.

The three credits need to be completed at a technical or community college, university, or public or private college. They are preferably taken at a Wisconsin institute of higher education. Credits need to be completed in the Early Childhood Education Department, or if not in the ECE Department, need to be determined by The Registry to be related credits. The 3 credits can be completed all at once, or in 2 and 1 credit increments. The 3 credits of ECE need to be completed with a grade of C- or higher. The REWARD program will review an individual's Registry profile to verify if 3 credits have been completed, so transcripts will need to be submitted to The Registry.

To decide which courses to take, an individual should ask themselves "What is my professional development plan?" That way the courses you choose will not only help you to remain eligible for REWARD but will also meet your short and long term professional development needs. Some people may choose to take courses that will ultimately result in an associate's or bachelor's degree. Some people may choose to take courses in a Registry Credential, which is a shorter series of classes specialized to the age group with which you work. Some people may just want to look at one class. There are many options for REWARD participants.

FREE Professional Development Counselling Services are available through the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association. Counselors can help you to find coursework to meet this REWARD requirement, and are also able to discuss how the coursework may fit into your short and long term professional development goals. Visit our website at [wisconsinearlychildhood.org/PDcounseling](http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/PDcounseling) to get started. You can also contact the Professional Development Service at 800-783-9322 or [professionaldevelopment@wisconsinearlychildhood.org](mailto:professionaldevelopment@wisconsinearlychildhood.org)

And there is support to help you complete the credits. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WISCONSIN Scholarship Program may be able to assist REWARD participants to meet this requirement. T.E.A.C.H. is a comprehensive scholarship program which is specifically designed to help early childhood providers complete credit based education, at little or no cost for the recipients or their programs. Contact T.E.A.C.H. at 800-783-9322 or [teach@wisconsinearlychildhood.org](mailto:teach@wisconsinearlychildhood.org)

For more information:

**In the Madison area: 608-729-1049**

**Statewide: 800-783-9322, ext. 7249**

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