The Connecticut Parenting Educator Credential

Charter Oak State College
Degrees Without Boundaries

CT-PEN
Connecticut Parenting Education Network
What is the Connecticut Parenting Educator Credential?

- Designed by Parenting Educators and Parents – led by CT-PEN in partnership with other stakeholders in Connecticut.

- It’s based on a set of competencies and core areas of knowledge needed to best enhance parents’ ability to rear caring, competent and healthy children.

- It seeks to provide a voluntary system of credentialing with five levels of proficiency.
Having a credential acknowledges a Parenting Educator’s competency in the following core areas:

- National Extension Parent Education Framework (NEPEF)
  - Priority practices for parents (model for parenting)
  - Basis of parenting educator skills (professional practices)
- CT-PEN Parenting Educator’s Code of Ethics
- Training in at least one recognized research-based Parenting Educator Curriculum
  - Parents-as-Teachers
  - Building Family Futures
  - Strengthening Families
- 12 Credits (or equivalent)
  - Lifespan/Human Development
  - Family Systems
  - Group Process and Dynamics
  - Adult Learning Theory and Methods
What are the 5 levels of proficiency?

- **Provisional** – designed to bring people into the profession (Expires in 4yrs)
  - H.S. Diploma (or GED), trained in one research-based parenting education curriculum and one year supervised experience as a parenting educator.

- **Level 1 Parenting Credential** (Valid for 3 years)
  - Same as above – plus 12 credits (or equivalent): Lifespan/Human Development, Family Systems, Group Process/Dynamics, and Adult Learning.

- **Level 2 Parenting Credential** - Requires Associate Degree (Valid for 3 years)
  - Same as Level 1 – one year supervised experience if AA/AS degree is in a related field. Two years supervised experience if in unrelated field.

- **Level 3 Parenting Credential** - Requires Bachelor’s Degree (Valid for 3 years)
  - Same as Level 2 – two years supervised experience if BA/BS degree is in a related field. Four years experience if in unrelated field.

- **Level 4 Parenting Credential** – Requires Master’s Degree or higher (Valid 3years)
  - Same as Level 3 - two years supervised experience if BA/BS degree is in a related field. Four years experience if in unrelated field.
Why is it important to have a credential?

- Increases one’s knowledge, understanding and skill base on all aspects of parenting education.
- It keeps people current and up-to-date in this ever-changing and growing field.
- Research tells us that qualifications are directly tied to service quality.
- Gives students the opportunity to make connections with and learn from other professionals in the field.
- Elevates one’s status as a professional in this field and increases one’s opportunities for professional growth and advancement.
What does it cost?

- **First-time Application Fee**: $120.00
  - Includes Application fee is $75.00
  - Required Non-Credit Online Course: $45.00
    - Fundamentals of Parenting Education

- **Credential Fee based on Level**:
  - Provisional: $50.00 (non-renewable)
  - All other levels (1-4): $100.00

- **Renewal Fee**: $75.00 (every three years)
Steps to Obtaining my Credential?

- Be a current membership in CT-PEN
- Complete Application and send with fee to Charter Oak
  - Have identified required 12 credits or equivalent (levels 1-4)
  - Have identified completion of at least one parenting education curriculum
- Upon receipt of Application you will be enrolled in the next session of the required five-week self-paced non-credit online course, *Fundamentals of Parenting Education*. Send final assignment to Charter Oak upon completion of course.
- Request all Official Transcripts sent to Charter Oak
- Request Letter(s) verifying experience to Charter Oak
- Credential Application Complete!!
CT Parenting Educator Credential

Preparing Professionals in Parenting Education.