

About Education Verification

How does education verification help you?

- It makes it easy to share your qualifications with current and new employers.
- It helps you keep track of your education and early learning credentials.
- It allows the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to learn more about you so that we can create new professional development opportunities.
- It lets DEL recognize your professional achievements with a monetary incentive called an education award.

Which degrees are recognized and will earn me an education award?

DEL recognizes and values all degrees and offers awards for all levels of completed degrees. By sharing your educational accomplishments with us, we learn more about the early learning field and can continue to support professionals like you.

More about ECE (Early Childhood Education/Early Care and Education) Majors

DEL considers the following to be early learning majors and accepts them for education verification purposes:

- Early childhood education
- Early childhood and family studies
- Human development with specialization in ECE
- Children's studies/childhood education
- Elementary education with one of the following endorsements:
 - Early childhood education
 - Early childhood special education
 - P-3
 - P-3 special education

If your degree major is not listed above, but you believe that it is an ECE major, DEL can review your transcripts in more detail to see whether your major aligns with Washington State Core Competencies and ECE Credential Standards.

More about ECE Certificates and Credentials

We take into account specific early learning certificates when determining your education award. Many certificates are available in the field of early learning, but we are unable to recognize all of them within the education verification process.

If you have a certificate that has earned you STARS hours, it will be reflected in your professional record. (The trainer will enter the information into MERIT for you.)

What is movement?

After receiving an initial education award, you may be eligible for additional awards if you achieve further movement. Movement is defined as a degree or ECE accomplishment that you attain or complete after your education was first reported and verified. In order to qualify as movement, newly earned degrees must be higher than the previously verified degree; they may not be the same level of degree with a different major.