

# Michigan School-Age Youth Development Certificate and Credential Program

## Frequently Asked Questions



**Web:** [www.misayd.org](http://www.misayd.org)

**Contact:** [misaydinfo@gmail.com](mailto:misaydinfo@gmail.com)

### **1. Why should I earn the MiSAYD Credential?**

- The Credential gives you an opportunity to evaluate your level of knowledge and skills in the field of youth work/school-age care.
- The self-evaluation tool will help you to plan meaningful professional development for personal growth.
- The Credential allows you to gain acknowledgment of all of the training and experience you have earned since you have begun working in the field of youth development.
- Michigan is currently testing a statewide Quality Rating & Improvement System for School-age programs that would include school-age care. Programs employing staff with the Credential may earn a higher quality rating. For more information about Michigan's School-age QRIS visit: <http://greatstarttoquality.org/parents/school-age-design-of-great-start-to-quality>
- When you earn the Credential it shows that you are committed to professionalism.
- Earning the Credential shows that you support quality in out-of-school time programs.

### **2. I have a teaching certificate, why do I need the MiSAYD Credential?**

- The field of youth development has changed a lot in the last 10 years.
- You have to attend yearly training anyway, why not have it count for something?
- Add this youth development specialty to what you already have.
- This Credential is specific to what happens in out-of-school time.

### **3. How long is this going to take?**

- Get your training and experience in first.
- Once you have training and experience hours, if you work on this every week for 1-2 hours per week, you can complete the Credential in a few months.

### **4. How long do I have to complete this?**

- You can take as long as you need.
- All training must be within 5 years of the date that you submit your training documentation and payment. If some of your training will expire within one year, you will still be allowed to count that training as part of the total up to one year from the date payment is received.
- If you complete the first four steps and make a payment then take more than one year to complete the Credential you will need to be sure you have enough training and experience hours that are within the previous 5 years to remain qualified.

### **5. How do my college courses count?**

- One college credit equals 15 hours of training.
- Submit your syllabus/course outline.
- If you do not have your syllabus/course outline - go to your college website and get the description for the course from the course catalog.

## **6. Can a site coordinator earn the credential if they are not regularly teaching in a program?**

- Yes--Site Coordinators work directly with youth every day. During the observations, Site Coordinators will need to arrange to be in the teaching role with students.

## **7. How do I decide which content area a workshop goes into?**

- You can use the Self-Assessment Checklist to determine which content area a workshop can be counted in. Think about the topics covered in the training. Review training materials to remember what topics were addressed. Read indicators in the Self-Assessment Checklist to find the topics covered.
- If you have done the above and still do not know where to count your training, use your best judgment and assign the training to a content area.
- You can also send an email to [misaydcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:misaydcinfo@gmail.com) with a description of the training and ask for advice.

## **8. Can I observe in my own program? In another program within my organization?**

- You may not use your own program. The goal of the Program Observation is to give you a chance to see how other programs operate so you can bring ideas/strategies back to your own program.
- You may use another program within your organization.

## **9. How does this credential count?**

- For Licensing - the Credential can be used in combination with college credits to fulfill the Program Director Qualifications.
- When Michigan's Quality Rating & Improvement System is launched to include school-age care, the Credential will help your program attain more points and a higher quality rating.

## **10. Do I have to get the certificate before I get the credential?**

- No, you can earn the credential without earning the certificate first.

## **11. I have the Certificate. Now I want the Credential. What do I need to do?**

- The training hours you earned to receive the Certificate may count toward hours for the Credential as long as they were earned within the past 5 years (from date of payment for the Credential).
- You will need to contact the MiSAYD portal Administrator by email at [misaydcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:misaydcinfo@gmail.com) to begin your Credential. Your account will change from a Certificate to a Credential.

## **12. What is the observation like?**

- Once you have submitted all required pieces and the "Ready to Schedule Observation" form, you will be assigned an observer. This observer will be a trained External Assessor in the SA-PQA or YPQA depending on the age of youth in your program.
- This observer will call or email you to set a date/time for your observation. You will want to select a day that represents a typical day in your program (no special events or field trips). You will also select a time when you are in charge of the group for the one hour observation.

## **13. What if I have forgotten my MiSAYD username or password?**

- Send an email to [misaydcinfo@gmail.org](mailto:misaydcinfo@gmail.org) with your First and Last name (previous name if appropriate) and the Michigan County.

## **14. How long is this good for?**

- The Certificate and Credential are valid for 3 years from the date of issuance.
- You will need to renew within 60 days after the expiration date.

## **15. How do I renew my Certificate or Credential?**

- You will need to contact the MiSAYD portal Administrator by email at [misaydcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:misaydcinfo@gmail.com) to begin your Renewal. Your account will change to a Renewal Certificate or Renewal Credential.