

# Gateways to Opportunity® Family Specialist Credential Framework

FSC Levels	Education Requirements	Content Area Specific Education	Work and Practical Experience	Professional Contributions
Level 5	Bachelor's Degree	33 points in FSC Content Areas <i>(minimum of 1 point in each: Health, Safety &amp; Well-being, Observation &amp; Assessment, Curriculum &amp; Program Design, Personal &amp; Professional Development and 2 points in each: Human Growth &amp; Development, Interactions, Relationships &amp; Environments, and Family &amp; Community Relationships) of which a maximum of 6 points may be from credential approved training</i>	Minimum of 200 hours of family-related supervised experience <b>or</b> 1200 total hours of documented family-related work experience	Required at Renewal
		Bachelor's or Graduate in Social Work from a nationally accredited program meets these requirements		
Level 4	Associate's Degree <b>or</b> 60+ semester hours with <i>(9 semester hours of English, Social Science, and <b>any</b> Math <b>or</b> Science)</i> <i>(These 9 hours must be credit bearing and nondevelopmental 100 level +)</i>	21 points in FSC Content Areas <i>(minimum of 1 point in each: Health, Safety &amp; Well-being, Observation &amp; Assessment, Curriculum &amp; Program Design, Personal &amp; Professional Development and 2 points in each: Human Growth &amp; Development, Interactions, Relationships &amp; Environments, and Family &amp; Community Relationships) of which a maximum of 6 points may be from credential approved training</i>	100 hours of family-related supervised experience <b>or</b> 500 hours of documented family-related work experience	Required at Renewal
Level 3	High School Diploma or GED and 6 semester hours <i>(in 2 areas - English, Social Science, <b>any</b> Math <b>or</b> Science)</i> <i>(These 6 hours must be credit bearing and nondevelopmental 100 level +)</i>	9 points in FSC Content Areas <i>(minimum 1 point in each: Health, Safety &amp; Well-being, and Observation &amp; Assessment, and a minimum of 2 points in each: Human Growth &amp; Development, and Interactions, Relationships &amp; Environments) of which a maximum of 6 points may be from credential approved training</i>	20 hours of family-related supervised experience <b>or</b> 300 hours of documented family-related work experience	Required at Renewal
		1 additional point is required from General or Content Area specific education		
Level 2	High School Diploma or GED	6 points in FSC Content Areas <i>(must have a minimum of 2 points in each: Interactions, Relationships &amp; Environments and Human Growth &amp; Development)</i> <i>All 6 points may come from credential approved training</i>	10 hours of family-related documented observation <b>or</b> 200 hours of documented family-related work experience	Required at Renewal

Guide: A point is equivalent to one semester hour of college credit.

# Gateways Family Specialist Credential – Guidelines

## **Vision Statement:**

“The Family Specialist Credential validates family systems knowledge, skills, and competencies required for direct service staff who work in relationship with families to promote optimal child and family outcomes.”

## **“Family-related” work experience:**

A work and practical experience verification form must be completed and signed by a supervisor, director, or Human Resources department and also include a job description from your employer that validates your work experience providing direct service to families. Direct teaching experience with children is not required for the Gateways Family Specialist Credential.

## **Content Area Education:**

### **FSC Level 2:**

- A minimum of two points is required in both: Human Growth & Development and Interactions, Relationships, & Environments.
- 200 hours of documented “family related” work experience or 10 hours of “family related” observation may be utilized to meet the Work and Practical Experience component.

### **FSC Level 3:**

- In addition to the point requirements for Level 2, one point is required in both: Health, Safety, & Well-Being and Observation & Assessment.
- 300 hours of documented “family related” work experience or 20 hours of “family related” supervised experience may be utilized to meet the Work and Practical Experience component.
- One additional point is required from General or Content Area specific education.\*
- General Education requirements include 6 semester hours in two of the four different areas.

### **FSC Level 4:**

- In addition to the point requirements for Levels 2 & 3, one point is required in both: Curriculum or Program Design and Personal & Professional Development and two points are required in: Family & Community Relationships.
- 500 hours of documented “family related” work experience or 100 hours of “family related” supervised experience may be utilized to meet the Work and Practical Experience component.
- General Education requirements include 9 semester hours in three of the four different areas.

### **FSC Level 5:**

- You must meet the points listed in Level 2, 3, and 4 with a total of 33 points.
- A Bachelor’s or Graduate degree in Social Work from a nationally accredited college or university meets the General Education, Content Area Specific Education, and Work and Practical Experience requirements.
- For a directory of accredited programs, visit [www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org).

## **General Credential Information:**

- One point is equivalent to 1 semester hour of college coursework, 1.5 quarter hours of college coursework, and/or 15 consecutive contact hours of training.
- A training must be at least 7.5 consecutive contact hours in length, cover one Content Area, and contain an assessment component in order to be considered toward a Gateways Credential. Each 7.5 consecutive contact hour training may be worth ½ of a point.
- Gateways Credentials are valid for five years and need to be renewed. Renewal requirements for the Family Specialist Credential have not been determined.

\*The one additional point at Level 3 helps meet program-specific, 16-semester hour Federal Financial Aid requirements.