

Interested in Becoming a Certified Deal Architect?



Certified Deal Architect Program

The Certified Deal Architect (CDA) program is a highly regarded certification designed for individuals who are responsible for strategic partnerships and supplier/client relationships. The Certified Deal Architect is the 3rd of five Vested Certification levels. The program is modeled after a typical journeyman approach where individuals must apply their knowledge in practice. Individuals interested in pursuing their CDA must complete [all of the Vested courses](#) to become a CDA. Some of these courses are free, some are online, and some are live (in-person and virtual offerings). In addition to the knowledge gained in the University of Tennessee courses, CDA Candidates must complete the [402 UT CDA Validation capstone course](#) that involves delivering a Vested agreement. This includes participation in the majority of the solutioning workshops where key decisions were made, and playing a significant role in at least some aspect of the writing of the actual contract.

Benefits of Becoming a CDA

The Certified Deal Architect program comes with several benefits post-graduation:

- Can use the term CDA and the **CDA logo** (e.g., for business cards, email signature, LinkedIn profile)
- Unlimited lifetime license to **use the Vested Toolkit/IP** for future deals at no additional cost (normally courses provide a single-use license)
- **Access to revisions to the Vested online courses** at no additional cost
- Invitation-only access to the **annual CDA conference** to network and learn from other CDAs
- Invitation-only access to the **CDA Distribution List** to further network with other CDAs (must opt-in for access)
- A “push” **notification of new resources and tools**
- CDA Candidates are “**affiliated**” with a “**home**” **Vested Center of Excellence** where they can further network on a regional or more local level

Requirements:

Pre-requisites	Being a current Certified Practitioner is a prerequisite for becoming a CDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must complete all five courses required of becoming a Practitioner • Must submit a Certified Deal Submission (submitted in 402 UT CDA Validation course) 	
Courses	The following two courses are required to complete to become a CDA: (in addition to completing the five courses required to become a Practitioner)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 301 Getting to We online course (~20 hours) 	\$475 (free when also taking 302 Collaborative Contracting course)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 302 Collaborative Contracting on-site OR virtual course (~20 hours) 	\$2,975 on-site or virtual (Individual cost – group rates with 3+ people)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 402 UT CDA Validation course 	\$8500 – cost per deal, with an additional \$500 admin fee per team member when doing as a group
Grading criteria	At the end of both the Getting to We and Collaborative Contracting courses, there is a quiz – a passing score of 80% percent or better on each quiz is required	
Applied Work	CDA Candidates must participate in the majority of the solutioning workshops where key decisions are made, and play a significant role in at least some aspect of the writing of the actual contract.	
Timeline to pass	There is no required timeline for passing the requirements of a Certified Deal Architect – anyone can move as slowly or quickly as their circumstances allow	

For More Information: Reach out to Vested faculty (vestedfaculty@utk.edu) to answer questions and provide personalized guidance