

# Industry-Recognized Credentials FAQs



## 1 What is an industry-recognized credential?

The Association for Career and Technical Education states that the term “industry-recognized,” used with respect to a credential, means a credential that –

- a. Is sought or accepted by employers within the industry or sector involved as a recognized, preferred, or required credential for recruitment, screening, hiring, retention, or advancement purposes; and
- b. Where appropriate, is endorsed by a nationally recognized trade association or organization representing a significant part of the industry or sector.

**NOTE:** For more information on how industry-recognized credentials relate to the College and Career Readiness Indicators, as well as how “industry credential” is defined with regard to the College and Career Readiness Indicators, please refer to this [guidance](#).

## 2 Why should students earn industry-recognized credentials?

Credentials help to verify the mastery of skills obtained by a student through a training program. This verification of a student’s competence and qualifications in a highly skilled area, issued by a third party, can be used by an employer to assist with decisions pertaining to hiring or advancement.

## 3 How can students obtain industry-recognized credentials?

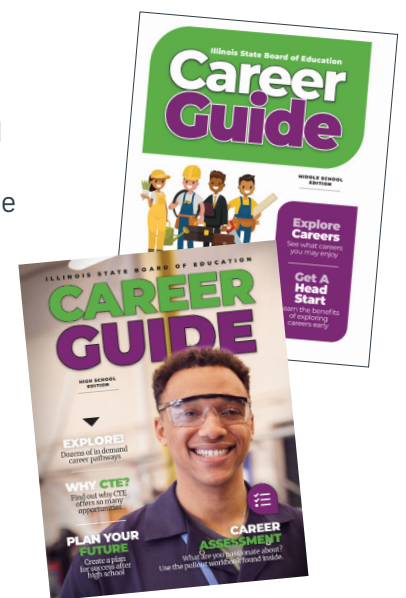
Students often can earn industry-recognized credentials upon completion of a Career and Technical Education (CTE) course or program during their high school career. Many courses integrate credential attainment in the curriculum while others prepare students to seek credential attainment outside of school after completing a CTE course.

## 4 Are industry-recognized credentials required for employment?

Industry-recognized credentials are not used in all industries or places of employment. It is important for students to explore their career interests and work toward credentials that are meaningful in the field they plan to pursue. The Illinois State Board of Education has developed [Career Guides](#) that may be useful as students explore their career interests.

## 5 I’m a CTE Teacher. Am I required to offer an industry-recognized credential to my students?

Not all CTE courses will lead to a student’s attainment of an industry-recognized credential, but it is recommended that CTE teachers maintain knowledge about industry-recognized credentials within their content area. This can help guide curriculum and student skill development so that students are prepared to seek a credential after completing a course if credentials are not obtained during the course.



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**6 I'm a parent of a CTE student. What should I know about industry-recognized credentials?**

It is important to note that a credential does not guarantee employment but rather shows a potential employer that the student has obtained mastery in a skill set relevant in the workforce.

**7 What are the potential costs associated with a student earning an industry-recognized credential?**

Those costs are determined by the organization that awards the credential.

**8 Where can I find a list of industry-recognized credentials?**

An industry-Recognized Credentials list is posted on the [ISBE Career Technical Education](#) webpage.

**9 How can my organization add its industry-recognized credentials to the aforementioned list?**

Illinois State Board of Education does not endorse specific sellers/providers of credentials. The only condition under which a provider will appear on this list is if the provider is the sole provider and the credential is tied specifically to its product(s) or processes. Examples would be Amatrol credentials, Microsoft Suite products, etc.

Please direct questions to [cte@isbe.net](mailto:cte@isbe.net).