



Validating Industry Recognized Credentials

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Here are the essentials:

What is an “INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL”?

Why are we talking about “INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS”?

What are different types of “INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS”?

What Industries are served?

Case Study: Drafting Industry

How do YOU find a valid and reliable credential?

Self-certification: Straight from today’s headlines – The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ceded safety certification of the Boeing MAX 8 and MAX 9 aircraft to Boeing – the manufacturer. Lot’s of conflict of interest is being alleged as the investigation continues.





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What is an “INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL”?

The Association for Career and Technical Education (https://www.acteonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/What_is_a_Credential_71417.pdf) quotes from the U.S. Department of Labor when defining an industry recognized credential:

An education- and work-related credential can be defined as a verification of an individual’s qualification or competence issued by a third party with the relevant authority to issue such credentials (U.S. Department of Labor, 2010).





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Why are we talking about “INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS”?

It’s all about the money!

Where do we get money to fund Career and Technical Education?

The Carl D. Perkins Act

Technically the Carl D. Perkins Strengthen Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (or Perkins V)

Reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Perkins IV)

Perkins IV was the first mention of industry recognized credentials. Page 9 of the Perkins Act of 2006, The Official Guide published by ACTE says it best:

At the post-secondary level, academic attainment will no longer have to be reported as a separate measure, but like the secondary level, technical skill proficiency should include student achievement on technical assessments that are aligned with industry recognized standards when possible.





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Why are we still talking about “INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS”?

Section 3 of Perkins IV defines Career and Technical Education:

The term ‘career and technical education’ means organized educational activities that –

- (A) Offer a sequence of courses that-
 - (i) provides individuals with coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further education and careers in current or emerging professions
 - (ii) provides technical skill proficiency, an industry recognized credential, a certificate or an associate degree; and
 - (iii) may include prerequisite courses (other than a remedial course) that meet...

FOUR CHOICES. Not one!





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What are different types of “INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS”?

TYPES OF CREDENTIALS (From ACTE)

The term credential encompasses educational certificates, degrees, certifications, and government-issued licenses.

Certificate:

Certificates are awarded upon the successful completion of a brief course of study, usually one year or less but at times longer, primarily in public or private two-year institutions of higher education, university extension programs or nondegree granting postsecondary institutions like area career and technical education schools. Upon completion of a course of study, a certificate does not require any further action to retain.

Certification:

Certifications indicate mastery of or competency in specific knowledge, skills or processes that can be measured against a set of accepted standards. These are not tied to a specific educational program, but are typically awarded through assessment and validation of skills in cooperation with a business, trade association or other industry group. After attaining a certification, individuals often must meet ongoing requirements to maintain the currency of the certification.

License:

A license is legal permission, typically granted by a government agency, to allow an individual to perform certain regulated tasks or occupations. A license can be obtained by meeting certain requirements set forth by the licenser, usually by completing a course of education and/or assessments. Upon receipt of a license, ongoing requirements may be necessary to maintain the license.

Degree: An academic degree is an award or title conferred upon an individual for the completion of a program or courses of study over multiple years at postsecondary education institutions.

https://www.acteonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/What_is_a_Credential_71417.pdf





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What industries?

CASE STUDY: CADD DRAFTING

Drafting is diverse. Used in many MANY engineering endeavors: Aeronautical, Architectural, Civil, and Mechanical just to name a few. The industry is not served by one common body. This leaves the door wide open for anyone, including self-certification. Today's headlines: Boeing and the FAA.

So who provides the industry recognized credential?

THIRD PARTY CREDENTIALING GROUPS

NOCTI, who purports to be "the largest provider of industry-based credentials and partner industry certifications for career and technical education (CTE) programs across the nation. Whether using assessments to meet Perkins accountability requirements, to guide data-driven instructional improvement, or to assist with teacher evaluation systems, NOCTI provides a credible solution through its validated and reliable technical skill assessment."

<https://www.nocti.org/aboutnocti.cfm>

CERTIPORT <https://certiport.pearsonvue.com/Educator-resources/CERTIFIED>

American Design Drafting Association (ADDA)

VENDORS

For Drafting, software developers offer proficiency certifications for their products: Autodesk (AutoCAD) <https://www.autodesk.com/training-and-certification/overview> and Desault Systemes (SolidWorks, Catia, etc.) <https://www.solidworks.com/sw/education/certification-programs-cad-students.htm> are two of the most popular.





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Worth it?

While certification of proficiency is intuitive, is it worth the financial cost and the investment in time. It depends on what you seek.

For proficiency?

For employment?

For fulfillment?

Other reasons?

How do YOU find a valid and reliable credential?

What is on “the list” for your state/industry

Community Survey:

What industries do you serve (yes, you serve industry!)

Who hires your graduates – What do credentials do you local employers require/recognize?

What credentials does your industry require statewide/nationally/internationally?





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Let's talk. Who is in the room today? Industries served?

Who's here:

Educators? Elementary? Middle School? High School? College? Industry Trainers (that's all of us!)?

Industry folks?

Vendors/Software developers?

Certification providers?

Industries served?

Credentials granted? Credentials under consideration?

Share your experiences!





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Outline

- I. What is an Industry Recognized Credential?
 - a. ACTE pushed for adoption of a definition
 - b. Mentioned numerous times in Perkins Act, but never defined
- II. Why an Industry Recognized Credential?
 - a. 2006 Carl D. Perkins Act, in order to ensure accountability for federal dollars was searching for a reliable means to measure quality instruction
 - b. What could be more reliable than an Industry Recognized Credential?
 - i. Actual language stated “a credential closely aligned with industry”
 - ii. Took the “easy way out”
 - iii. Intuitive, simple, let recipients figure it out
 - iv. Career and Technical Education is far too diverse for a “quick fix” like this
 - v. Some (many?) Industries have no recognized credential
 - c. Result was a surge in “manufactured demand” for credentials
 - i. Prior to 2006 there were very few “for hire” credentialing services
 - ii. After 2006 EVERYONE wanted to enter the fray
 1. Vendors offer certifications on the products they sell to you
 2. Vendors offer books, tutorials, study guides, online classes
 3. Impressive sounding companies offer “feel good” certifications
 4. Study guides, books tutorials, online courses for a small fee!
 - d. Some legitimate, some not so much
 - e. All for profit
- III. Let’s look at different credentials
 - a. Certificate
 - b. License
 - c. What else?
- IV. Industries
 - a. List of recognized Industries
 - b. From Virginia Jones
- V. Case Study: Drafting Industry
 - a. There is no centralized drafting “authority”
 - b. This has left the door “wide open” for others to assume the position
 - c. Vendors like AutoDesk, Desault (SolidWorks), and others offer product specific competency training and exams
 - d. Third party purveyors of a range of “professional” certifications) drafting, plumbing, basket weaving)

- e. American Design Drafting Association
 - i. Truly a third party
 - ii. Multiple software titles
 - iii. Range of skills NOT tied to any specific vendor
 - iv. Perhaps the best “independent” certification service for drafting but...
 - v. Not really recognized by the drafting industry (employers of drafters)
- VI. How do YOU find a valid and reliable Industry Recognized Credential for YOUR program?
 - a. Community Survey
 - i. Identify employers who hire your graduates
 - ii. Ask them what “credential” they require, use or prefer
 - iii. If none exists, ask them what they would like their new hires to be able to do
- VII. Let’s talk
 - a. What Industries are in the room today
 - b. What credentials do you provide?
 - i. Are you satisfied?
 - ii. Are your employers satisfied?
 - iii. Worth the cost?

- The *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act* (Perkins) is the principal source of dedicated federal investment in CTE. It supports the efforts of states, school districts and postsecondary institutions to improve their programs and ensure all students have access to high-quality CTE.
- Perkins was last authorized on July 31, 2018 as the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, though we refer to it as “Perkins V.” The new law does not take effect until July 1, 2019. Current law ([Public Law 109-270](#)) is based off of the last reauthorization in 2006.
- For more information visit ACTE’s Perkins V implementation page [here](#), which includes a [summary](#) of the new law.
- Follow the latest news on Perkins V and its implementation on the CTE Policy Watch Blog [here](#).

<https://www.acteonline.org/advocacy/acte-policy-agenda/#toggle-id-4>

High-quality credentials are recognized by multiple employers across an industry. To help better identify and prioritize such credentials, ACTE proposes the following uniform definition of “industry-recognized” be implemented across federal legislation when referencing credentials.

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