

Approved Industry-Recognized Credentials List



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Purpose

This resource guide, compiled and maintained by the Iowa Department of Education (Department), Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (Bureau), is designed to provide districts a starting point with which to identify relevant high-quality industry recognized credentials (IRCs) in alignment with each Career and Technical Education (CTE) service area. This is an evergreen resource in which new certifications may be added through the formal application process or certifications no longer of value may be removed. General comments or questions about the resource may be directed to the CTE team at cte@iowa.gov.

What Is an Industry Recognized Credential?

An Industry Recognized Credential is a certification that has been widely acknowledged as holding value within a specific industry or field. Recipients of such credentials have demonstrated that they possess the knowledge, skills and competencies required to perform specific tasks or roles within that industry. Industry recognized credentials are awarded by certifying bodies, trade associations or professional organizations that have established standards for proficiency and knowledge within that domain. Designed as a validation of an individual's expertise, IRCs serve as a trusted benchmark for employers and stakeholders.

Why Are Industry Recognized Credentials Important?

By earning an industry recognized credential, individuals enhance their employability and professional credibility as well as their career advancement prospects. IRCs are developed in close collaboration with industry experts to ensure outcomes align with current and future job market needs. In offering IRCs, districts effectively equip students with specific in-demand knowledge and skills employers are seeking. Alignment of IRCs to district CTE pathways allows students to explore diverse career paths while gaining exposure to different industries, gaining real-world skills and experiences that may help shape their career trajectories. IRCs can also foster stronger partnerships between districts and local businesses, community organizations and post-secondary education organizations. These partnerships may help develop or strengthen increased collaboration in areas such as work-based learning opportunities for students.

The Role of Industry Recognized Credentials and Education Pathways

Industry recognized credentials help define structured program pathways for students and families. Many IRCs are stackable, meaning they can be accumulated and built upon over time. Students earning entry-level credentials may pursue additional related credentials as they progress through programs. In addition, certain IRCs have established pathways for college credit or articulation agreements with higher education institutions.

Characteristics of Quality Credentials

High-quality industry recognized credentials possess key characteristics distinguishing them from others. Common characteristics of high-quality IRCs include:

- **Industry Recognition** - High-quality credentials are respected and recognized within the industry. Carrying a strong reputation and are valued by industry experts, professional associations and employers.
- **Relevance and Currency** - Credentials that are relevant to the current and future needs of the industry. Aligning with industry standards, practices and emerging trends. High-quality credentials undergo routine updates to ensure they remain current and reflective of the evolving needs of the industry.
- **Rigorous Standards and Assessment** - Processes are in place to ensure credentials have clear expectations for the knowledge, skills and competencies required in the industry. Assessment methods are reliable, valid and comprehensive ensuring individuals earning the credential have demonstrated proficiency. Credentials and their governance structure are accountable to their stakeholders and maintain transparency in their processes.
- **Advancement and Stackable Opportunities** - Credentials provide a clear pathway for career advancement and further education. Offering additional opportunities to higher-level credentials (stackability) and academic programs allowing individuals to continue their learning and advancement of knowledge and skills. Credentials are part of a structured framework that supports progression and portability across different organizations, regions and sectors. Transferability of credentials increases the value and versatility for individuals.
- **Alignment** - Credentials are clearly aligned to a Career and Technical Education program of study and State approved standards.

Credential Evaluation and Approval Process

The Bureau will maintain this evergreen document and the process of adding or removing credentials. Districts, individuals or organizations seeking to add an industry recognized credential may submit a request using the following process. Credentials that are not demonstrated to be industry recognized, current, valuable and supported by Iowa industry will not be considered. Credentials should meet all high-quality characteristics as outlined above and have the support of at least five Iowa businesses. While a credential does not guarantee employment, this list will provide support of high-quality credentials that can assist Iowan's seeking employment with providing evidence of knowledge and skill relevant to industry.

Credential Approval Process

Step 1 - Review of Institution and Quality Assurance

- Credentialing Institution Guidelines:
 - The district, individual or organization submitting credential for review has ensured the institution providing the credential is in good national standing, has been third-party validated and meets national and state standards.
- Quality Assurance Guidelines:
 - The district, individual or organization submitting credential for review must show the credential supports at least one of Iowa's Career and Technical Education service areas; aligns to one of Iowa's high-demand industries and must have the support of at least five Iowa employers who endorse the credential for hiring.

Step 2 - Submission of Application Form

All credentials being requested for review must complete the linked application form. The form must be completed in its entirety to be considered.

[Iowa Industry Recognized Credentials Request Form](#)

Step 3 - Review and Response

- **Approval** - If the credential presented for review meets the high-quality criteria guidelines AND quality assurance guidelines, the credential will be approved and the list will be updated.
- **Pending** - If the criteria meets one of the criteria, but not second OR if there are sections of the application form the Department has questions about, the applicant may be asked to revise, clarify or expand upon the application form or meet directly with a portion of the Bureau team.
- **Denial** - If the credential submitted for review does not clearly meet the criteria guidelines then the credential will be rejected.

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems.

Name of Credential	Issuing Organization(s)	Pricing at Time of Approval (Pricing Is Subject to Change)	CIP Code Alignment	CIP Description
CASE Course Certification	NOCTI	\$10.00	All Ag CIP codes	All Ag CIP codes
Private Applicator	Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship	\$15.00	01.0000 01.0601	Agriculture, General Applied Horticulture / Horticulture Operations, General
Youth Quality Assurance Program	Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)	\$12.00	01.0000 01.0901	Agriculture, General Animal Sciences, General
Food Safety & Science	American Meat Science Association	\$50.00	01.0000 01.0901	Agriculture, General Animal Sciences, General
Beef Quality Assurance	National Cattlemen's Beef Association	Free	01.0000 01.0901	Agriculture, General Animal Sciences, General

Applied Science, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing

Industrial technology education programs prepare students for careers and higher education within manufacturing technology, engineering and design, construction technology, transportation technology and communication. Students are provided technical knowledge that emphasizes high standards and quality experiences in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development.

Name of Credential	Issuing Organization(s)	Pricing at Time of Approval (Pricing Is Subject to Change)	CIP Code Alignment	CIP Description
OSHA 10 (General Industry)	OSHA	\$59.00	All	Construction
OSHA 10	OSHA	\$59.00	46.0000	Construction
ASE - Entry Level	Automotive Service Excellence	\$87.00	47.0000	Automotive
EPA 609	EPA	\$50.00	47.0000	Automotive
AWS (SMAW, GMAW, FCAW, GTAW code D1.1)	AWS	\$60.00	48.0508	Welding and Metalworking
Autodesk Certified User	Certiport	\$90.00	All manufacturing and engineering	All manufacturing and engineering
Precision Measurement (Stackable)	Snap-On/NC3	\$15.00	All applied science CIPS	All applied science CIPS
Torque Fundamentals	Snap-On/NC3	\$15.00	All applied science CIPS	All applied science CIPS
Multimeter	Snap-On/NC3	\$15.00	All applied science CIPS	All applied science CIPS
Hand Tool Identification & Safety	Snap-On/NC3	\$15.00	All applied science CIPS	All applied science CIPS

Business, Finance, Marketing and Management

Business and marketing prepare students to master the knowledge and skills needed to function as citizens, consumers, employees, managers, business owners, and directors of their economic futures through the study of accounting, business law, career development, communication, computation, economics, personal finance, entrepreneurship, information technology, international business, management, and marketing.

Name of Credential	Issuing Organization(s)	Pricing at Time of Approval <small>(Pricing Is Subject to Change)</small>	CIP Code Alignment	CIP Description
Microsoft Office Specialist	Certiport	\$115.00	52.0101	Business/Commerce, General
Intuit Certified Bookkeeping Professional	Certiport	\$149.00	52.0101	Business/Commerce, General
Adobe Certified Professional	Certiport	\$99.00	52.1401	Marketing/Marketing Management, General

Human Services/Family and Consumer Sciences

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), also known as Human Services, empowers individuals and families across the life span. Our unique focus is on families, work and their relationships.

Name of Credential	Issuing Organization(s)	Pricing at Time of Approval (Pricing Is Subject to Change)	CIP Code Alignment	CIP Description
ServSafe Food Handler	National Restaurant Association	\$15.00	12.0500	Culinary Arts and Hospitality
Prostart	National Restaurant Association		12.0500	Culinary Arts and Hospitality
AAFCS Pre-PAC Culinary Arts	American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences	\$25.00	12.0500	Culinary Arts and Hospitality
AAFCS Pre-PAC Food Science Fundamentals	American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences	\$25.00	12.0500	Culinary Arts and Hospitality
AAFCS Pre-PAC Housing and Furnishings	American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences	\$25.00	19.0900	Design
AAFCS Pre-PAC Interior Design Fundamentals	American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences	\$25.00	19.0900	Design
AAFCS Pre-PAC Fashion, Textiles and Apparel	American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences	\$25.00	19.0900	Design

Name of Credential	Issuing Organization(s)	Pricing at Time of Approval (Pricing Is Subject to Change)	CIP Code Alignment	CIP Description
AAFCS Pre-PAC Early Childhood Education	American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences	\$25.00	13.1210	Early Childhood Education
AAFCS Pre-PAC Education Fundamentals	American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences	\$25.00	13.0101	Education and Training
AAFCS Pre-PAC Broad Field Family and Consumer Sciences	American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences	\$25.00	19.0101	Family and Consumer Sciences
AAFCS Pre-PAC Family and Consumer Services	American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences	\$25.00	19.0707	Human Services
Child Development Associate (CDA)	Council for Professional Recognition	\$495.00	13.1210	Early Childhood Education and Teaching

Health Science

Health Science education programs prepare students for careers and higher education in more than 200 occupations in the healthcare field, in a variety of settings, including clinics, home health, hospitals, insurance industry, laboratories and research, and nursing homes. The individual interested in the healthcare field will have the opportunity to prepare for professional careers that plan, manage and provide therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services and biotechnology research and development. (Some certifications may require a student to be 18 years of age or older)

Name of Credential	Issuing Organization(s)	Pricing at Time of Approval (Pricing Is Subject to Change)	CIP Code Alignment	CIP Description
Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)	American Association of Medical Assistants National Healthcareer Association	\$125.00	51.0802	Clinical/Medical Laboratory Assistant
Registered Medical Assistant (RMA)	American Medical Technologists	\$120.00	51.0802	Clinical/Medical Laboratory Assistant
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)	American Red Cross	\$100.00	All health science CIPS	All health science CIPS
Automated External Defibrillator (AED)	American Red Cross	\$100.00	All health science CIPS	All health science CIPS
First Aid	American Red Cross	\$40.00	All health science CIPS	All health science CIPS
Basic Life Support (BLS)	American Red Cross	\$100.00	All health science CIPS	All health science CIPS
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing	\$175.00	51.3902	Nursing Assistant/Aide and Patient Care Assistant/Aide

Name of Credential	Issuing Organization(s)	Pricing at Time of Approval (Pricing Is Subject to Change)	CIP Code Alignment	CIP Description
Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT)	National Healthcareer Association National Phlebotomy Association	\$200.00	51.1009	Phlebotomy Technician / Phlebotomist
Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT)	Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) National Healthcareer Association	\$129.00	51.0805	Pharmacy Technician/Assistant
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians	\$104.00	51.0904	EMS

Information Solutions

Information Solutions education pathways focus on building linkages in information technology occupations for entry level, technical and professional careers related to the design, development, support and management of hardware, software, multimedia and systems integration services.

Name of Credential	Issuing Organization(s)	Pricing at Time of Approval (Pricing Is Subject to Change)	CIP Code Alignment	CIP Description
Microsoft Office Specialist	Certiport	\$115.00	11.1006	Information Support & Services
CompTIA A+	CompTIA	\$246.00	11.1006	Information Support & Services
Java SE 8 Programmer	Oracle	\$95.00	11.0701	Computer Science
CCNA	Cisco	\$300.00	11.0901	Networking Systems
Site Development Associate	CIW	\$150.00	11.0801	Web and Digital Communications
Adobe Certified Professional	Certiport	\$99.00	11.0801	Web and Digital Communications