

Virginia's Credentialing Initiative



Virginia Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education Services

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Students who complete Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs participate in approved external examinations that test technical skills. When a student passes the exam, in addition to the certificate or license earned, a credential is awarded. This, when combined with the standard credit for a CTE course, can be used as a verified credit for graduation. A CTE Completer is a student who has met the requirements for a CTE concentration (sequence) and all requirements for high school graduation, or an approved alternative education program.

As illustrated in the graph below, secondary schools report the number of credentials earned by students for passing examinations, and workplace readiness skills assessments. Prior to 2010-2011, workplace readiness* skills assessments were included in the Industry Certification category, but now are reported separately.

Types of Credentials

- **Full Industry Certification** - from a recognized industry, trade, or professional association;
- **Pathway Industry Certification** - specific stackable credentials from a recognized industry that lead to a full industry certification;
- **Occupational Competency Skills Assessment** - a national standardized assessment of skills/knowledge in a specific career and/or technical area;
- **State License** - required for entry into a specific occupation; and
- **Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth Certification** - for essential employability skills recognized by Virginia employers.

Highlighted Credentials

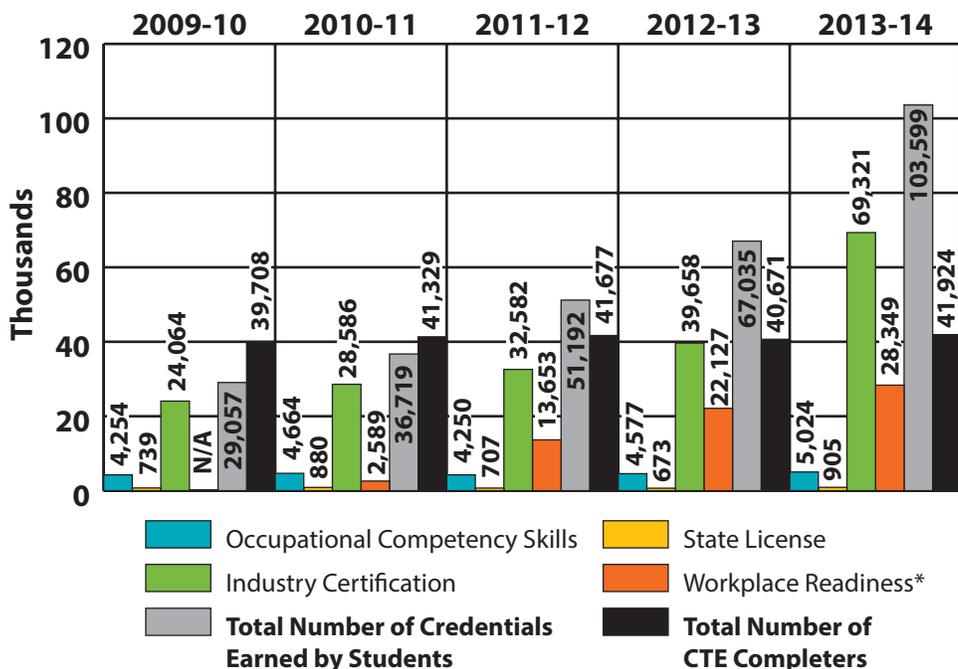
More than 350 credentialing examinations have been approved by the Virginia Board of Education. Credentials are available in the 16 Career Clusters. Some of the most widely earned credentials include:

- Microsoft Office Specialist (Word, Excel, Outlook, Access, OneNote, SharePoint and PowerPoint Certifications)
- Project Lead the Way (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics - STEM)
- National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF)
- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)
- Skills USA Carpentry Examination
- NCCT Core: Introductory Craft Skills, National Construction Career Test: National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)
- Manufacturing Technology Assessment (NOCTI)
- Welding (AWS SENSE) Training Program (American Welding Society)
- Firefighter Level I Examination (Virginia Department of Fire Programs)
- Emergency Medical Technician Examination (Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services)
- Nurse Aide (Virginia Board of Nursing)
- Virginia Pharmacy Technician (Virginia Board of Pharmacy)
- Private Applicator (Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services)
- Small Animal Care Examination (Cornell University)
- National Retail Federation (NRF) Customer Service Certification
- Virginia (National) Career Readiness Certificate (ACT)
- WISE Financial Literacy Certification
- Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth Certificate (CTECS)

Credentials Boost Resumes

With credentials in hand, students show their grasp of job-related skills and knowledge and stand out in today's competitive job market.

Credentials Earned by Students



Find state and local school division credentialing statistics through Virginia's School Report Card:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/school_report_card/index.shtml

Path to Industry Certification: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/career_technical/path_industry_certification/index.shtml

Selected Statewide Occupational Projections

| Selected Occupation | 2013 Median Wage ¹ | 2022 Projected Employment ² | Predominant Education Level ³ |
|---|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Registered Nurses | \$62,750 | 66,990 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| Business Management Analysts | \$92,140 | 65,224 | Bachelor's degree or more/Work Experience |
| Accountants and Auditors | \$71,120 | 48,788 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| Retail Sales Supervisors | \$37,960 | 45,853 | High School/Work Experience |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | \$36,570 | 43,398 | High School/Work Experience |
| Software Developers, Systems Software | \$110,800 | 41,871 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| Computer Systems Analysts | \$95,280 | 40,198 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| Manufacturing Maintenance and Repair Workers | \$36,160 | 36,047 | High School diploma/Training/Certification |
| Carpenters | \$37,540 | 30,671 | High School diploma/Training/Certification |
| Licensed Practical Nurses | \$39,390 | 27,715 | Some College/Associate Degree |
| Automotive Service Technicians | \$39,540 | 25,170 | High School/Training/Certification |
| Network and Computer Systems Administrators | \$87,210 | 24,272 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| Lawyers | \$115,370 | 23,029 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| Electricians | \$44,820 | 21,583 | High School/Training/Certification |
| Executive Secretaries and Assistants | \$49,830 | 21,573 | Some College/Associate/Work Experience |
| Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers | \$47,510 | 20,636 | Some College/Associate/Training/Certification |
| Market Research Analysts and Specialists | \$63,650 | 19,893 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters | \$43,530 | 15,122 | High School Training/Certification |
| Manufacturing Production Supervisors | \$57,790 | 14,003 | High School/Work Experience |
| Construction Managers | \$91,690 | 13,929 | High School/Work Experience |
| Financial Analysts | \$81,340 | 11,354 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers | \$39,230 | 9,901 | High School/Training/Certification/Work Experience |
| Firefighters | \$44,330 | 9,856 | Some College/Associate/Training/Certification |
| Mental Health Counselors | \$43,030 | 9,832 | Bachelor's or more/Training/Certification |
| Industrial Machinery Mechanics | \$44,150 | 9,685 | High School/Training/Certification |
| Logisticians | \$80,350 | 8,543 | Bachelor's or more/Work Experience |
| Pharmacists | \$122,170 | 8,242 | Bachelor's or more/Training/Certification |
| Interpreters and Translators | \$59,830 | 8,134 | Bachelor's or more/Training/Certification |
| Graphic Designers | \$51,780 | 7,744 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| Landscaping Supervisors | \$43,650 | 7,368 | High School Work Experience |
| Education Administrators, Elementary and Secondary School | \$84,120 | 7,208 | Bachelor's or more/Work Experience |
| Dental Hygienists | \$81,110 | 6,356 | Some College/Associate Degree |
| Meeting, Convention, and Event Planners | \$55,310 | 6,058 | Bachelor's degree or more/Work Experience |
| Electronics Engineers | \$102,430 | 5,636 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| Telecommunications Equipment Installers | \$56,620 | 5,284 | Some College/Associate/Training/Certification |
| Food Service Managers | \$56,290 | 5,269 | High School/Work Experience |
| Aerospace Engineers | \$122,890 | 5,222 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| Massage Therapists | \$37,620 | 4,731 | Some College/Associate Degree |
| Special Education Teachers, Secondary School | \$54,420 | 4,159 | Bachelor's degree or more/Training/Certification |
| Environmental Scientists and Specialists | \$73,780 | 3,899 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| CTE Teachers, Secondary | \$56,960 | 3,884 | Bachelor's degree or more/Training/Certification |
| Technical Writers | \$72,970 | 3,832 | Bachelor's degree or more/Work experience |
| Construction and Building Inspectors | \$52,200 | 3,808 | Associate Degree/Training/Certification/Work Experience |
| Veterinarians | \$89,550 | 3,254 | Bachelor's degree or more |
| Chefs and Head Cooks | \$39,200 | 3,083 | High School/Work Experience |

¹ Wage data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics Program; ² Estimates from Virginia Labor Market Information. Occupational Projections (long-term) for Multiple Occupations in Virginia in 2012-2022. Retrieved via <https://data.virginialmi.com>; ³ Predominant level of education and training information created by Trailblazers, based on US BLS occupational education and training data

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Virginia Occupational Employment Projections 2010-20