

Virginia's Credentialing Initiative



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

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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.

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

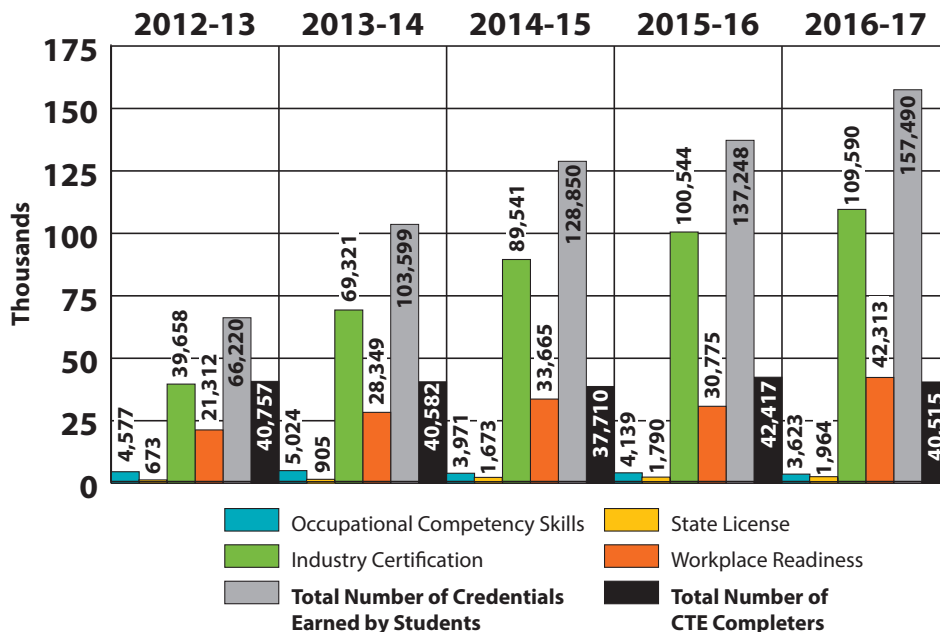
More than 350 credentialing examinations have been approved by the Virginia Board of Education. Credentials are available in the 16 Career Clusters. Some of the most widely earned credentials include:

- 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	2015 Median Wage ¹	2024 Projected Employment ²	Predominant Education Level ³
Registered Nurses	\$63,640	72,042	Bachelor's or more
Management Analysts	\$94,930	65,586	Bachelor's or more/Work experience
Accountants and Auditors	\$74,200	50,237	Bachelor's or more
Software Developers, Applications	\$103,490	45,360	Bachelor's or more
Elementary School Teachers (Except Spec. Ed.)	\$59,190	38,712	Bachelor's or more/Training/Certification
Computer Systems Analysts	\$95,370	35,183	Bachelor's or more
Software Developers, Systems Software	\$110,950	32,103	Bachelor's or more
Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	\$59,800	28,820	Bachelor's or more/Training/Certification
Licensed Practical Nurses	\$40,240	26,213	Associate/Some college/Training/Certification
Lawyers	\$123,230	24,149	Bachelor's or more
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$49,860	20,855	Associate/Some college/Training/Certification
Marketing Research Analysts and Specialists	\$63,250	20,596	Bachelor's or more
Electricians	\$47,020	20,247	Associate/Some college/Training/Certification
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$151,850	17,169	Bachelor's or more/Work experience
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$44,170	13,536	High School/Training/Certification
Information Security Analysts	\$102,710	13,034	Bachelor's or more/Work experience
Heat, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration Mechanics	\$47,370	11,807	Associate/Some college/Training/Certification
Mental Health Counselors	\$43,460	10,374	Bachelor's or more/Training/Certification
Firefighters	\$48,730	10,187	Associate/Some college/Training/Certification
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$47,860	9,887	High School/Training/Certification
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$49,520	9,804	Associate/Some college
Personal Financial Advisors	\$85,710	8,021	Bachelor's or more/Training/Certification
Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	\$43,800	7,614	High School/Training/Certification
Operations Research Analysts	\$105,970	7,505	Bachelor's or more
Machinists	\$43,600	7,378	High School/Training/Certification
Physical Therapists	\$84,300	6,673	Bachelor's or more
Web Developers	\$78,680	6,638	Bachelor's or more
Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	\$63,690	6,346	Bachelor's or more/Work experience
Radiologic Technologists	\$55,820	5,736	Associate/Some college
Dental Hygienists	\$80,770	5,383	Associate/Some college
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists	\$58,020	5,154	Bachelor's or more
Nurse Practitioners	\$94,340	5,045	Bachelor's or more
Manufacturing Maintenance and Repair Workers	\$44,600	4,800	High School/Training/Certification
Dentists, General	\$127,980	4,692	Bachelor's or more
Automotive Body and Related Repairers	\$45,070	4,666	High School/Training/Certification
Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists	\$68,830	4,317	Bachelor's or more/Training/Certification
Construction and Building Inspectors	\$56,010	4,221	Associate/Some college/Training/Certification/Work experience
Special Education Teachers, Secondary School	\$57,050	4,159	Bachelor's or more/Training/Certification
Eligibility Interviewers, Government Programs	\$38,890	4,071	High School/Training/Certification
Speech-Language Pathologists	\$76,390	3,950	Bachelor's or more
Brickmasons and Blockmasons	\$45,240	3,653	High School/Training/Certification
Water/Wastewater Treatment/System Operators	\$40,940	3,652	Associate/Some college/Training/Certification
Environmental Scientists and Specialists	\$70,300	3,614	Bachelor's or more
Chefs and Head Cooks	\$38,480	3,502	High School/Work experience
Security and Fire Alarm Systems Installers	\$42,820	3,345	High School/Training/Certification
Interpreters and Translators	\$62,410	3,325	Bachelor's or more/Training/Certification
Technical Writers	\$75,750	3,316	Bachelor's or more/Training/Certification/Work experience
CTE Teachers, Secondary School	\$59,200	2,677	Bachelor's or more/Training/Certification/Work experience

¹ Wage data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics Program. Retrieved via <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>. ² Estimates from Virginia Employment Commission, Occupational Projections (long-term) for Multiple Occupations in Virginia in 2015-2024. Retrieved via <https://data.virginialmi.com>.

³ Predominant level of education and training information determined by Trailblazers based on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational education and training data. Retrieved via <http://ctetrailblazers.org/labor-market-data/>.