

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 (CTE Completer), 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
- **State Licensure**, required for entry into a specific occupation
- **Pathway Industry Certification**, entry-level exams in an industry certification program leading toward full certification
- **Occupational Competency Assessment**, a national standardized assessment of skills/knowledge in a specific career and/or technical area such as those recognized by National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI)

Most Utilized Credentials In Virginia

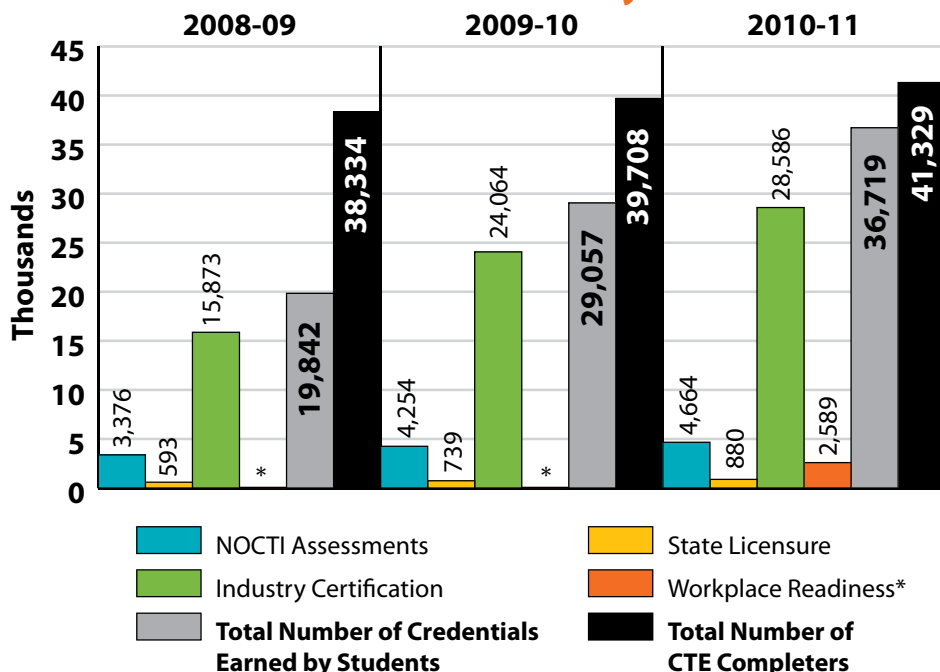
More than 350 credentialing examinations have been approved by the Virginia Board of Education. Credentials are available in the 16 Career Clusters. Some of the most widely earned credentials include:

- Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint Certifications)
- Project Lead the Way (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics - STEM)
- WISE Financial Literacy Certification
- Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth
- Virginia Pharmacy Technician
- Nurse Aide
- Welding (AWS SENSE) Training Program (Level One)
- National Automotive Student Skills Standards: Brakes
- NOCTI Criminal Justice
- NOCTI Early Childhood Care and Education
- NRF National Professional Certification in Customer Service
- NRF Sales Certification
- IC3 Global Standard Certification (GS3)
- NCCT Core: Introductory Craft Skills
- Private Applicator (Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services)
- Cosmetology Licensure

Credentials Boost Resumes

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

Credentials Earned by Students



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