

# Florida Credentials Review Committee

## Master Credentials List Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the Master Credentials List?

Florida's Master Credentials List is a comprehensive list of state-approved degree and non-degree credentials of value based on the [Framework of Quality](#) developed by the Florida Credentials Review Committee.

### 2. Why is Florida adopting a Master Credentials List?

In 2021, the Florida Legislature passed the [Reimagining Education and Career Help \(REACH\) Act](#) to enhance access, alignment and accountability across the state's education and workforce development systems. One of the requirements of the REACH Act is the development of a Master Credentials List of degree and non-degree credentials of value, prioritizing instructional programs that prepare Floridians for in-demand occupations.

### 3. What was the process for developing the criteria for the Master Credentials List?

As required by the REACH Act, the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors appointed a [Credentials Review Committee](#) to establish a definition for credentials of value, create a framework of quality, and ultimately identify degree and non-degree credentials of value for the Master Credentials List. The committee convened four workgroups, each led by a committee member and focused on a specific element of the framework of quality: wage thresholds, demand thresholds, credential sequencing, and credential occupation correlation and gap identification. The workgroups included stakeholders from Florida's business and education communities as well as subject matter experts from CareerSource Florida, the Department of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Education. The workgroups conducted research, analysis, and discussion to bring forward recommendations to the Credentials Review Committee.

In December 2022, the Credentials Review Committee established the definition for credentials of value and adopted a [Framework of Quality](#) to identify degree and non-degree credentials of value for inclusion on the statewide Master Credentials List.

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## 4. How will the Master Credentials List be used?

The Master Credentials List serves as a public and transparent inventory of state-approved credentials of value, directs the use of federal and state funds for workforce education and training programs that lead to approved credentials of value, and guides workforce education and training programs by informing the public of the credentials that have value in the current or future job market.

## 5. What is the definition for “credential of value”?

The Credentials Review Committee established the definition for credential of value as: any credential defined in Chapter 14.36(2)(a), Florida Statutes, that also satisfies the criteria set forth in the [Framework of Quality](#), which includes demand, wage and sequencing criteria. Chapter 14.36(2)(a), Florida Statutes, defines credentials as: apprenticeship certificates, industry certifications, licenses, advanced technical certificates, college credit certificates, career certificates, applied technology diplomas, Associate in Applied Science degrees, Associate in Science degrees, Bachelor of Applied Science degrees, or Bachelor of Science degrees.

## 6. What are the requirements for getting on the Master Credentials List?

Only credentials of value will be added to the Master Credentials List. Credentials of value are those that meet the demand, wage and/or sequencing criteria outlined in the [Framework of Quality](#).

## 7. What is the data source for evaluating labor market demand for the credentials submitted for consideration for the Master Credentials List?

The data used to evaluate labor market demand for credentials applying for inclusion on the Master Credentials List is derived from the state's [Labor Market Estimating Conference](#).

## 8. Which credentials can apply for inclusion on the Master Credentials List?

Any credential defined in Chapter 14.36(2)(a), Florida Statutes, as a “credential” may apply for inclusion in the Master Credentials List. Chapter 14.36(2)(a) defines the following as credentials: “apprenticeship certificates, industry certifications, licenses, advanced technical certificates, college credit certificates, career certificates, applied technology diplomas, Associate in Applied Science degrees, Associate in Science degrees, Bachelor of Applied Science degrees, or Bachelor of Science degrees.” Currently, credentials that are Associates-level or below can be submitted for consideration via the Master Credentials List Application.

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## 9. When can bachelor's degrees be submitted for consideration for the Master Credentials List?

Application submissions for Bachelor of Applied Science degrees and Bachelor of Science degrees will be accepted for consideration for the Master Credentials List when updated labor market information is available from the [Labor Market Estimating Conference](#).

## 10. Who can submit credentials for consideration for inclusion in the Master Credentials List?

Florida's local workforce development boards, school districts and institutions within the Florida College System may apply for credentials to be included on the Master Credentials List. Note that only local workforce development boards may submit credentials for consideration based on meeting the local demand criteria within the [Framework of Quality](#).

## 11. What is the approval process for credentials to be added or removed from the Master Credentials List?

On a quarterly basis, a joint review team – established by the Credentials Review Committee and including the Florida Department of Education, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and CareerSource Florida – will evaluate applications submitted for the Master Credentials List against the [Framework of Quality](#). Valid credentials meeting the established criteria will be recommended to the Credentials Review Committee for consideration as credentials of value. The Credentials Review Committee will vote on the credentials of value, and the updated Master Credentials List will then be presented to the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors for approval and delivery to the State Board of Education. Once the update to the Master Credentials List is approved, the list will be updated on the CareerSource Florida website.

On an annual basis, credentials on the Master Credentials List will be reviewed based on new labor market information and those credentials no longer meeting the Framework of Quality will be phased off the Master Credentials List. This review will follow the same steps as the quarterly update reviews outlined above.

## 12. What is the application cycle for submissions to the Master Credentials List?

The Master Credentials List application will remain open on the CareerSource Florida website year-round. New credentials submitted through the application will be evaluated for inclusion on the Master Credential List four times per year.

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Once per year (typically at the start of the calendar year), the credentials that are already on the Master Credentials List will be evaluated against the [Framework of Quality](#) and those credentials no longer meeting the criteria will be phased off the Master Credentials List. This annual review will include the quarterly addition of new credentials and the removal of no-longer-eligible credentials culminating in a new Master Credentials List for the upcoming school year. The deadline for submissions for consideration for the 2024-2025 Master Credentials List is Sept. 30, 2023.

## 13. Can a credential be offered in Florida even if it is not on the Master Credentials List?

Yes. The Master Credentials List does not determine which credentials can be offered in Florida. The purpose of the Master Credentials List is to: 1) serve as a public and transparent inventory of state-approved credentials of value; 2) direct the use of federal and state funds for workforce education and training programs that lead to approved credentials of value; and, 3) guide workforce education and training programs by informing the public of the credentials that have value in the current or future job market.

## 14. How are industry certifications submitted for Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Act funding?

Secondary and postsecondary industry certifications that meet Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Act eligibility criteria and the standards set forth by the Florida Credentials Review Committee in the [Framework of Quality](#) may also apply for CAPE funding through the Master Credentials List application. For information on CAPE funding visit [Chapter 1003.491, Florida Statutes](#) and [Rule 6A-6.0576, Florida Administrative Code & Florida Administrative Register](#).

## 15. What is the application cycle for submissions for Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Act funding?

Secondary and postsecondary industry certifications seeking Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Act funding can be submitted year-round via the Master Credentials List Application. CAPE funding eligibility submissions are reviewed by the Florida Department of Education annually at the end of each calendar year in advance of the next meeting of the Credentials Review Committee. The deadline for CAPE funding submissions for the 2024-2025 school year is anticipated to be Sept. 30, 2023.