

Florida Credentials Review Committee

Master Credentials List: Meeting Local Demand

Florida's Master Credentials List is a comprehensive list of state-approved degree and non-degree credentials of value. As required by the [Reimagining Education and Career Help \(REACH\) Act](#) of 2021, the Credentials Review Committee adopted a [Framework of Quality](#) in December 2022 to identify the credentials of value that should be added to the Master Credentials List.

Florida school districts, Florida College System institutions and local workforce development boards may submit credentials for consideration via the online application on the [Master Credentials List](#) page on CareerSource Florida's website. Once a credential is submitted through the application, the first step in identifying credentials of value is to determine whether the credential meets the Demand Criteria as outlined in the Framework of Quality. If the credential **does not** meet this criterion, the credential may be evaluated for local demand. Note, however, that **for a credential to be evaluated under local demand, it must be submitted by a local workforce development board.**

Submitting a Credential for Consideration under Local Demand

If a credential that is not currently on the Master Credentials List is tied to open jobs with wages that meet or exceed the wage threshold within the Framework of Quality **and** there is documented or verifiable proof that there is industry demand for these jobs, a conversation should first be held at the local level with stakeholders in industry, workforce development, education and economic development to determine whether:

- 1) The local workforce development board, education institution and local economic development organization will support the submission of the credential;
- 2) The credential has a direct link to a Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) Code;
- 3) Evidence can be obtained showing that the credential leads to an occupation in an industry sector of focus or is in an emerging industry for the local area;
- 4) Evidence that the number of current or future job openings for the occupation exceed either a threshold established by the local workforce development board or a minimum of 30 openings where no local threshold exists; and,
- 5) (If the credential is a non-degree credential) Whether or not the wages associated with the credential meet or exceed the Wage Criteria as defined in the Framework of Quality.

Details regarding the criteria outlined above is available on the following pages.

Once the criteria above are met, the local workforce development board supporting the credential may submit the credential for consideration via the [Master Credentials List](#) online application.

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1 – Documented support

Documented support from the local workforce development board, education institution and economic development organization in the local area should be submitted as letters of endorsement from each entity.

2 – SOC Association

To be considered for the Master Credentials List under local demand, credentials of value must be linked to a SOC Code. Applicants are required to provide the SOC code to which the credential is directly linked. [SOC codes and their definitions](#) may be found on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website.

3 – Industry Sector of Focus/Emerging Industry

Credentials evaluated under local demand should lead to an occupation in an industry sector of focus or an emerging industry for the local area. Examples of industry sector of focus include:

- Aviation and Aerospace
- Clean Technology
- Defense and Homeland Security
- Financial and Professional Services
- Information Technology
- Healthcare/Life Sciences
- Manufacturing
- Transportation and Logistics

Prior to submitting credentials for consideration, applicants should be prepared to describe how the credential is linked to the chosen occupation and industry, which specific skills are acquired by obtaining the credential and whether the credential is needed for the occupation.

4 – Job Openings

For a credential to be evaluated under local demand, the number of current or future job openings for the occupation linked to the credential must exceed either a threshold established by the local workforce development board or a minimum of 30 job openings where no local threshold exists. If the local board has established a threshold for the number of job openings needed to demonstrate local demand, the board will be required to upload relevant pages of its current Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act local plan or applicable local policy as documentation to support the established threshold.

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In addition to supporting documentation related to the threshold of job openings to demonstrate demand, documentation must also be provided to substantiate the number of current or future job openings for the occupation tied to the credential. Acceptable documentation includes existing job postings confirming actual openings in the local area; direct requests from businesses; or documentation within the local area from an economic development organization pointing to future job openings in relation to an economic development project, industry research study, or documented in advisory council minutes; news articles; social media; or other sources.

5 – Wage Criteria (Non-Degree Credentials Only)

Non-degree credentials must show evidence of earnings outcomes that meet middle- to high-level wages as defined in the Framework of Quality. The Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) will be used to confirm wages. For non-degree credentials that do not have sufficient and recent wage outcome data in FETPIP, the credential must be linked to a SOC code. The SOC-connected occupational wages provided by the most recent Labor Market Estimating Conference product will be used to evaluate wages.

If you have additional questions, please send an email to mcl@careersourceflorida.com with “local demand” in the subject line.