

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](#), the Credentials Review Committee adopted a [Framework of Quality](#) 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 through the online application on the [Master Credentials List](#) page on the Credentials Review Committee 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

Credentials not currently on the Master Credentials List that are linked to open jobs with wages that meet or exceed the wage threshold within the Framework of Quality must show verifiable evidence that there is industry demand for these jobs.

Local workforce development boards submitting credentials for local demand consideration are encouraged to work directly with local stakeholders in industry, workforce development, education and economic development to determine if:

- 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 the credential leads to an occupation in an industry sector of focus or is in an emerging industry for the local area;
- 4) Evidence 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 about the criteria above are available on the following pages.

Florida Credentials Review Committee

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.

1 – Documented Support

Documented support from the local workforce development board, education institution and economic development organization in the local area should be submitted. **Acceptable documentation:** 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. The SOC code included in the application must align with the industry sectors, job openings, wage criteria and other documentation submitted.

3 – Industry Sector of Focus/Emerging Industry

Credentials submitted 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 sectors 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. **Acceptable documentation:** show that the industry is included in the local workforce development board Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) local plan; show that the industry is included as a local economic development organization industry of focus.

4 – Job Openings

Credentials evaluated under local demand require specific information about the number of current or future job openings for the occupation linked to the credential. Submitters must show proof that job openings exceed a threshold established by the local workforce development board *or* a minimum of 30 job openings in local areas where no local threshold exists. **Acceptable documentation:** if the

Florida Credentials Review Committee

local workforce development board has established a threshold for the number of job openings needed to demonstrate local demand, the local workforce development board will be required to upload relevant pages of its current WIOA local plan or applicable local policy as documentation to support the established threshold.

Documentation must also be provided to substantiate the number of current or future job openings for the occupation linked to the credential. **Acceptable documentation:** 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.

Evaluating Registered Apprenticeships for Local Demand

Registered apprenticeships are industry-driven, high quality career pathways where employers are able to develop and prepare their future workforce and individuals can obtain paid work experience and a nationally-recognized credential. The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is responsible for registering apprenticeships in the state of Florida.

Registered apprenticeships will be automatically evaluated against the Framework of Quality upon registration with FDOE and annually when new labor market information is available. Therefore, Registered Apprenticeships are not required to submit an application for inclusion on the Master Credentials List unless the credential does not meet the demand and wage (if applicable) criteria in the Framework of Quality.

A registered apprenticeship is considered to meet local demand if it was newly registered in the prior academic year OR had at least one registered apprentice in the prior academic year.

Florida Credentials Review Committee

Registered apprenticeships that do not meet the demand criteria in the Framework of Quality or do not meet the local demand criteria outlined in this document, may submit an application and meet criteria 1 – 5 above.