

How do credentials differ?

workcred

Connecting credentials,
competencies, careers, customers

an affiliate of ANSI

	CERTIFICATE*	CERTIFICATION	DEGREE	LICENSE
Awarded by	Education and training providers, employers, labor unions, and industry associations	Industry certification bodies	Education institutions	Government agencies
Awarded for	An exam at the end of a training or education course or a one-time assessment	Third-party, independent competency assessment	Course of study	Meeting requirements of an occupation
Indicates	Education/knowledge/skills	Skill mastery/competencies	Education, successfully passed courses	Legal permission
Time to complete	Variable, generally less than 2 years	Variable	Variable, generally 2 years or more	Variable
Time and renewal requirements	Often no time limit, no renewal requirement	Time-limited, includes recertification	No time limit, no renewal requirement	Time-limited, renewal generally required
Revocation process	Cannot be revoked	Can be revoked for incompetence or unethical behavior	Cannot be revoked	Can be revoked for incompetence or unethical behavior
Examples	CNC Machinist, Zurich Insurance Apprenticeship	CompTIA Cybersecurity Analyst, Certified Energy Auditor, Medical Laboratory Scientist, MLS(ASCP) ^{CM}	Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Associate of Arts in Business Administration	Electrician, Professional Engineer, Registered Nurse
Standard for accreditation	ANSI/ASTM E2659-18, a globally recognized American National Standard	ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024:2012, an international and national standard	National, regional, or programmatic	State law defines scope of practice

* There are many types of certificates. Some examples include: certificates of participation, certificates of achievement, certificates of completion for apprenticeship, and assessment-based certificates.