

Indiana's Skills Certification System

Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana

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<http://www.ivytech.edu/eastcentral/wed/certifications.html>

Certifications are documentation issued after successful completion of an examination to attest to the bearer's knowledge and skills in a particular occupational area. These certifications are valuable economic credentials that are often specified by employers as credentials necessary for a job or advancement within the company. Indiana established the use of certificates in 1992 in response to meet demands of business & industry. They said there is a lack of qualified workers, students do not have the skills to be successful, students don't make the connection between the classroom and the workplace, job candidates don't have even the basic skills and companies spend thousands to select and train new hires only to lose them. In addition, the economy has shown, and continues to show, that the speed of change is dramatic, jobs are routinely re-engineered, training costs are increasing, training is needed on a continuous basis, and companies want smarter workers.

Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana is an open-access, community college and the second largest and fastest growing public higher education system in Indiana. It also is the most affordable college education in Indiana. Offering two-year degrees and technical certificates as well as customized education for Indiana's businesses and industries, Ivy Tech has nearly 100,000 students enrolled in its 14 regions and 23 campuses statewide.

Minnesota Future Work staff note. We recognize that MnSCU is involved in various Certification applications including the Certiport's Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³®) which demonstrates critical computer and Internet skills valued in today's academic and professional environments. This scan is provided as an example of additional applications.

As a result of working with business and industry, the State of Indiana built a lifelong learning system which allows the needs of businesses to be identified and updated on an on-going basis and creates an ongoing partnership with education, business and industry. The certification system documents the skills of individuals by stating what an individual knows and can do. Initially seven skill (occupational) areas were identified based on high skill, high wage, and high demand occupations. The occupations include Bioscience, Business, Management & Finance, Electronics, Health, Metalworking and Plastics. Printing, Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive Service Technology and Childcare were added later.

To date, over 21,000 individuals have received a Certificate of Technical Achievement (CTA) for a total of over 90,000 assessments. Similarly, Indiana learners can undergo a process called Skill Certification where experts scrutinize how they perform in simulated job situations. Only those that perform according to accepted business standards receive Technical Certificates which includes a list of all activities completed. Employers can be sure Indiana's certificate holders are the best ones to hire, promote, and invest in because,

by undergoing Skill Certification, each has demonstrated they want and can perform the jobs companies want.

Our identified benefits of the program include the following:

1. The program benefits to education include program promotion/marketing, increase in student participation, and partnership with local business, connection between classroom and workplace, curriculum based on industry needs and added value to what you are already doing.
2. The benefits to individuals are preparation for real world skills, tool to drive interview, lifelong learning system, and recognition of skills by postsecondary & business.
3. Identified benefits to business include a partnership with education, well-trained job candidates, more information for hiring process, a reduction in hiring and training costs, and smarter, cross-functional workers.

To meet the ever-increasing demand for certified workers in Indiana, Ivy Tech Community College has created Workforce Certification Centers statewide. The Workforce Certification Centers are located on each campus of Ivy Tech Community College, Northwest Region: East Chicago, Gary, Michigan City, and Valparaiso. Select certification testing, licensing, and assessment are offered at each campus, including: CLEP (College-Level Examination Program®), ACT Testing (ASWB, ADA, NMT, and ASE), Certiport, Pearson Vue, LaserGrade, ICC, PSB, TEAS, etc. Other certification testing is offered in:

Microsoft - such as MCSE (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer), and MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist), Comp TIA - such as A+ and Network+ and Cisco - such as CCNA Cisco Certified Network Administrator.

For additional information on credentials, visit the national center One Stop Center located at <http://www.careeronestop.org/CompetencyModel/>