



# Understanding Credentials of Value

## What is a credential?

A credential is an award earned by an individual who demonstrates proficiency or competency in a particular subject or skill. Credentials are awarded by entities like educational institutions, industry associations, and government agencies. Outside of high school diploma and GEDs, some other forms of Credentials are listed below.

## What is a “credential of value”?

Broadly speaking, credentials of value are quality, affordable credentials that:

- ✓ equip recipients for strong career trajectories;
- ✓ improve their earnings opportunities; and
- ✓ align with high-demand jobs offered by Texas employers.

## Types of Credentials



### Certificate

A credential recognizing the successful completion of a program of study, typically undertaken through an authorized academic or non-academic third-party entity such as a public or private two-year institution or an independent education and training provider. Four-year institutions also issue certificates as part of micro-credentialing and other programs.

**Example:** Certificate of Proficiency as a Basic Firefighter



### Certification

A certification is a credential that signals the acquisition of competency in a specified skill set or knowledge base that can be demonstrably measured against accepted standards by way of examination or other assessment.

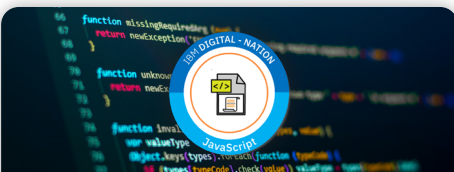
**Example:** Industry Based Certification



### Degree

A degree is a credential granted by an authorized academic entity that signals the successful completion of a program of study. Degrees are considered durable and do not expire.

**Example:** Bachelor of Science



### Digital Badge

A digital badge shows that its holder has acquired competencies within a specific area of a degree or other credential. Criteria used to award badges are highly flexible, and they may be awarded by a wide variety of organizations, groups, or institutions or may also be awarded by an individual.

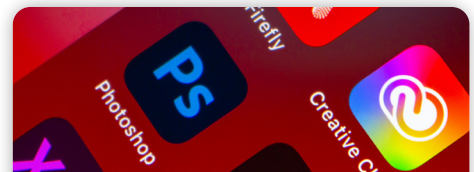
**Example:** Digital Badge in JavaScript



### License

A license entitles the holder to operate a business or exercise a particular profession within a certain jurisdiction. Licenses are awarded by authorized governmental entities following the successful completion of a program of study and/or examination. They are subject to renewal requirements and may be revoked by the issuer.

**Example:** Registered Nurse License



### Micro-credential

A micro-credential is competency-based and is awarded on completion of a focused, short-term program (usually one term of study or academic semester). Micro-credentials recognize the acquisition of specific, in-demand skills within a given field and may lead to broader-based certificates or degrees.

**Example:** Intuit Academy Bookkeeping

If you have any questions about the East Texas Tri-Agency Initiative or want to get involved, contact:

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