

## Industry Credentials Initiative

### Interested in Participating?

**Project Goal:** The goal of the Industry Credentials Initiative is to understand successful learner pathways between education and the workforce by integrating certification attainment with educational data and aggregate labor-market outcomes.

Certifications are an important pathway through which individuals can demonstrate their skills and competencies. Yet, we do not have a lot of research about the value of certifications. By linking the individual data of certified persons held by certification bodies, the educational attainment data from the National Student Clearinghouse (the Clearinghouse), and the aggregate labor-market outcomes from the U.S. Census Bureau (Census), we can gain insights about the return on investment for an individual who earns a certification and gain a better understanding of career and credential pathways.

The following chart outlines the steps for certification bodies to participate in the Industry Credentials Initiative.

Step	Certification Body	Clearinghouse
Negotiate data-sharing agreement	X	X
Assess process to pull minimum data and historical data	X	
Set up secure file transfer protocol (SFTP)/application credentials for certifying body		X
Work with Clearinghouse to submit test data	X	X
Submit cohort data including historical data	X	
Generate student-level and aggregate education outcomes reports		X
Create file to submit to Census		X
Review and analyze Census aggregate labor-market outcomes	X	X

**Contact:** If you would like more information about the Industry Credentials Initiative or would like to participate, please contact Vanessa Brown deputy chief data officer, National Student Clearinghouse, [vbrown@studentclearinghouse.org](mailto:vbrown@studentclearinghouse.org) or Karen Elzey, associate executive director, Workcred, [kelzey@workcred.org](mailto:kelzey@workcred.org).