



Student Credentials, Certifications, and Licensure in a Blended/Virtual Environment

One of the goals of a CTE program is to give students the ability to gain industry recognized credentials while still in high school. Student certifications are available in all CTE cluster areas. Students who have attained a credential have a documented skill set, are more marketable to employers, and are better prepared to succeed in a post-secondary environment. West Virginia CTE programs of study offer worthy credentialing opportunities that document mastered skills by the students.

Below are the recommendations to ensure CTE students are afforded opportunities to obtain industry recognized credentials/certifications/licensure.

Blended School Environment:

Students can utilize non-class days to complete the theory based and didactic learning aspects of the program to meet industry certification requirements. During in-class time, students can complete the hands-on skills that are necessary to meet certification requirements. Certification skills and exams that must be live proctored should be scheduled during in-class time.

Virtual School Environment:

Students can complete the theory based and didactic learning aspects of the program via virtual platforms provided by the instructor, and relevant online training modules from a legitimate training provider of industry certifications. The instructor should explore different ways to continue hands-on skills demonstrations with equipment to best meet the needs for certification. Skills demonstration and testing can be done via live or recorded videos. Students can take certification exams virtually through agencies that allow remote testing.

Before the Students Return

- Work with students to meet the necessary pre-certification requirements.
- Develop a schedule for skills testing and written certification/credential/licensure examinations.
- Secure on-line resources from relevant certification agencies.
- Prepare the lab and classroom to meet social distancing and sanitation requirements set forth by the school, county, state, and CDC.

Upon the Students Return

- Follow school, county, state, and CDC health guidelines for safety measures.
- Ensure social distancing during hands-on skills and written testing.
- Clean laboratory equipment and testing materials between students.
- Consider staggered testing schedules to limit the number of candidates in a testing area.

Continuing During Instruction

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the blended or virtual certification/credentialing/licensure process and make any changes necessary to support student needs.
- Ensure safety guidelines are being met.
- Stay current on certification agency testing requirements, changes, and updates during COVID-19.

It is strongly advised that CTE programs grant the opportunity for interested 2019-2020 seniors to complete lab-based coursework and industry certifications that cannot be completed remotely during early re-opening of schools.

WVDE Contact: If you have questions or need additional information on Student Certifications, Credentials, and Licensure, please contact Ashley Torres at atorres@k12.wv.us.