



HOW TO AWARD COLLEGE CREDIT

THROUGH THE
ACT® WORKKEYS® NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE®

Students MUST possess the workplace skills employers need.

Postsecondary institutions can award college credit to students who demonstrate the 21st-century skills needed for success, using a nationally recognized credential that measures foundational, work-ready skills.

A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL

The **ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC®)** is an evidence-based credential demonstrating the essential problem-solving and critical thinking skills needed for workplace success.

More than 4 million NCRCs have been awarded at four levels:



ACE ACCREDITATION

In 2016, the **American Council on Education (ACE)** recommended that colleges and universities award **3 credit hours in quantitative reasoning** and **1 hour in information literacy** to recipients of higher-level ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificates:

SILVER NCRC RECIPIENTS

toward vocational certification

OR

GOLD OR PLATINUM NCRC RECIPIENTS

toward associate's or bachelor's degrees

Why quantitative reasoning and information literacy? Let's define them:

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Thinking critically and applying mathematical skills to understand and solve problems

INFORMATION LITERACY

Locating, evaluating, and using information effectively

In 2007, the Association of American Colleges and Universities identified these two skills as **essential** postsecondary learning outcomes and **necessary skills** for the 21st-century economy.

WHERE NCRC SKILL LEVELS FIT IN

Skills demonstrated by receiving higher-level NCRCs include:

Solving quantitative problems

Identifying data trends

Inferring word meaning from context

Applying instructions to new situations

Identifying implied details

Sorting through distracting information

Making decisions based on detailed information

All of these abilities are contained within the definition of **quantitative reasoning** and **information literacy** skills.

NOTE: Both of these skills are interdisciplinary subjects, taught across curricula. Each institution should determine how best to implement quantitative reasoning and information literacy in their curricular offerings and how to award the credit achieved through a high-level NCRC.

CONCLUSIONS

- Institutions **must** produce graduates with skills that employers want, as measured by the NCRC.
- Credits awarded for NCRC attainment should align with an institution's mission, curricular offerings, and student learning goals.
- At-risk students would stand to benefit from a skills-based educational system.
- Awarding college credit for attaining NCRCs sends a positive message to students and offers alternative paths to postsecondary degrees and credentials.

FIND OUT MORE

Go to <http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/WK-Brief-NCRC-for-Credit.pdf> to see an ACT report on awarding college credit for credential attainment.