Institute for
Credentialing Excellence

Value of Accreditation

Accreditation provides value to credentialing programs, credential holders, employers and the public by ensuring that an independent third party verifies that each program is held accountable to appropriately rigorous standards set by the credentialing profession. The process of adopting and adhering to standards helps a credentialing program attain, improve, and maintain quality and consistency. Achieving accreditation is also a market differentiator as it demonstrates that a program is willing to be evaluated and has sufficient quality to be accredited by a third party.

Value Statements:

- Accreditation demonstrates a commitment to transparency and continuous quality improvement.

- Accreditation is a symbol of excellence that demonstrates a program's high-quality design and appropriately rigorous processes designed to protect the health, safety, and/or welfare of its stakeholders.

- Accreditation through I.C.E. allows a program to benefit from the knowledge and experience of an entire community of certification/credentialing bodies.

- The accreditation process identifies opportunities for program enhancement and increased efficiency and effectiveness.

- Accreditation promotes accountability through reporting, third party assessment, and regular program review for accreditation maintenance and renewal.

- Accreditation demonstrates commitment to public protection and professional excellence.

- Accreditation standards developed and maintained through I.C.E. are grounded in validated industry practices, leveraging the expertise of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), a collaborative methodology, and a well-defined governance structure.

- Accreditation provides assurance to employers, candidates, certificants, governments, regulators, insurance providers and/or payors, educators, and the general public that the program is valid and reliable.

- I.C.E. accreditation standards recognize and define the difference between certifications and certificates, including microcredentials.

- Accreditation standards also provide a defensible rationale in response to requests from other organizations that do not fully understand credentialing and assures objective and fair application of program policies.

The Institute for Credentialing Excellence Accreditation Services Components

ACAP

Through the ICE 1100 Standard, an American National Standard, for Assessment-Based Certificate Programs, I.C.E. awards accreditation to individual certificate programs that assess the attainment and demonstration of knowledge gained through an educational program. Accreditation validates the rigor and quality of the instructional design and assessment methodologies of the program.

ACAP accreditation increases the organization's reputation and brand recognition, serves as a quality indicator, and demonstrates that the organization and program has been developed according to and measured against appropriately rigorous standards.

Value Statements:
- ACAP accreditation allows for the review and assessment of the program design process and psychometric parameters which is a comprehensive approach to the accreditation of certificate programs.
- ACAP accreditation supports the development of flexible curriculums and assessments that meet an industry's unique needs, such as microcredentials, while adhering to rigorous standards.
- ACAP accreditation process ensures the alignment of learning outcomes through program design, assessment, and evaluation.

NCCA

Through the work of the NCCA, I.C.E. helps to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public through the accreditation of a variety of individual certification programs that assess professional competency in multiple industries. Achieving third party accreditation promotes quality improvement and risk management strategies.

NCCA's long-standing reputation as the original accreditor of personnel certification programs enhances a program's credibility and reputation. The rigorous assessment process emphasizes ongoing quality improvement. NCCA accreditation provides value by taking into consideration the size and scope of certification programs allowing for reasonable costs, especially for smaller certification programs.

Value Statements

- NCCA accreditation is recognized and valued in the credentialing industry as a symbol of excellence and credibility.

- NCCA accreditation is based on a peer-review process (administrative, psychometric, and public reviewers) and approval following a structured approach engaging the whole Commission through a consensus process.

- NCCA accreditation is a long-standing program, having established the original set of standards for certification in 1977.

- NCCA accreditation is comparatively cost effective and accessible to programs of varying sizes.

- For some programs, NCCA accreditation may fulfill requirements of government entities, insurance/reimbursement programs, regulators and licensing boards.

- NCCA accreditation is used as a qualifier for third-party recognition in many industries and occupations, such as the Magnet Recognition Program for Nursing, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements for Crane Operators, and COOL funding for military members pursuing credentialing opportunities).

- NCCA's accreditation requirement of public members that represent the public or non-employer consumer interests provides value because of their objective, unbiased and unique perspective.

Dual Accreditation – NCCA and ISO 17024

Through the partnership between I.C.E. and International Accreditation Service (IAS), individual certification programs have the opportunity to add ISO 17024 accreditation to their NCCA-accredited programs, which can increase global recognition.

By obtaining the ISO 17024 accreditation in connection with the NCCA accreditation, a certification body can achieve global recognition. IAS-accredited Personnel Certification Bodies receive advantages from IAS's status as a signatory of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperative (APAC), and MLA (Multilateral Arrangement) with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) . The signatories are recognized worldwide based on the equivalency of their accreditation programs, thereby reducing costs and adding value to business and consumers. Obtaining the ISO 17024 accreditation through the I.C.E./IAS partnership reduces costs for the organization (e.g., saving time in preparing materials and reducing overall costs to maintain accreditation).

Value Statements:

- Dual Accreditation combines the strengths of both sets of Standards

- Dual Accreditation builds on the recognition and prestige of the International Organization for Standardization's (ISO's) broader portfolio of standards

- Dual accreditation demonstrates additional commitment to meeting best practices and credentialing standards