

Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Credentials

Frequently Asked Questions – To Answer Questions About the Submissions Process

1. ***What are the three tiers and what do they mean?***

Not all industry credentials have the same level of recognition or value in Tennessee, and credential usage can also vary widely depending on industry or postsecondary partner preference. In 2019-20, multiple Tennessee state agencies worked together to align the process and create common criteria to recognize industry credentials and credentials across Tennessee's education and workforce systems.

The three tiers are used to differentiate student industry credentials as either **Recognized, Valued, or Preferred**. Tier 1 – Recognized is the minimal level at which an industry credential can be promoted statewide. To be included on the promoted list at this level, credentials must receive 40-50 points on the evaluation rubric. For Tier 2 – Valued credentials must score 51-60 points, and for Tier 3 – Promoted credentials must score at least 61 points on the evaluation rubric.

2. ***What do the tiers impact?***

Currently, one potential pathway for students to attain *Ready Graduate* status is through a combination of promoted student industry credentials and early postsecondary opportunities. The tier of the industry credential does not change the value toward *Ready Graduate*. More information on *Ready Graduate* is available [here](#).

Industry credentials will be used to impact funding based on the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Formula. Details of exactly how funding will be impacted are being developed.

3. ***Who can submit an industry credential to be reviewed for the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Credential list?***

District administrators, principals, CTE directors, teachers, students, vendors, industry representatives, postsecondary partners, and the general public, at large, may submit an industry credential to be reviewed for the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Credential list. However, only an authorized district representative (i.e., director of schools, secondary supervisor, CTE director, etc.) may submit an industry credential to be reviewed as a Local Student Industry Credential.

4. ***Can I submit more than one credential?***

There is no limit to the number of credentials that can be submitted for review.

5. ***What is the deadline to submit a credential to be added to the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Credential list?***

The deadline to submit a Student Industry Credential for review each year is the end of July. After this date, submissions will not be reviewed until the next CTE Career Cluster review cycle. Available programs for submissions are based on the career cluster under review that year. Credentials submitted that do not align with a program within a career cluster that year will not be accepted. The chart below shows the years the various clusters are open for submission. The cycle below will be repeated every three years.

2023	2024	2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Manufacturing • Agribusiness • Agricultural Engineering, Industrial, and Mechanical Systems • Arts, Audio/Visual Technology & Communications • Business Management & Administration • Information Technology • Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architecture & Construction • Education & Training • Government & Public Administration • Horticulture Science • Human Services • Marketing • Veterinary and Animal Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and Natural Resources • Finance • Food Science • Health Science • Hospitality & Tourism • STEM • Transportation

6. What are the minimum criteria a credential must meet to be considered for approval as a Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Credential?

To be considered for approval as a Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Credential, the credential must be aligned to at least one Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) approved program of study. Student attainment data for this credential must also be documented in the form of a certificate, credential, or badge.

7. The credential we want to submit does not meet the minimum requirements. What can we do?

For credentials that do not meet the minimum requirements, the district may submit the credential as a Local Student Industry Credential. If approved, the Local Student Industry Credential will be identified in Tier 1-Recognized for the submitting district.

8. How do I know if the credential is aligned to a program of study?

Click [here](#) to see all current TDOE approved CTE Career Clusters, Programs of Study, and standards.

9. How do I know if a job or occupation is considered in-demand?

Click [here](#) to access information from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development on in-demand occupations in Tennessee.

10. Will credentials be added to the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Credential list each year?

Yes, industry credentials will be reviewed annually. However, these reviews will be aligned to the corresponding CTE Career Cluster review cycle. For example, when the Health Science Career Cluster is reviewed, all submitted Health Science Student Industry Credentials and currently promoted Student Industry Credentials will be reviewed and re-evaluated at that time. Information on the Career Clusters review cycle is answered above.

11. If a credential is approved, how long will it remain on the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Credential list?

Credentials remain on the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Credential list until something changes with the credential to cause it to be re-evaluated. Credentials not attempted or earned by any student in the state for a period of three years will be removed from the list.

12. When will we know if the credential has been approved to be added to the list?

All submitted credentials will be reviewed once the submission window closes in July. Approved Student Industry Credentials will be published annually at the CTE Directors meeting in the Fall.

13. Is there an appeals process for credentials that are not approved or removed from the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Credential list?

No. There will not be an appeals process for credentials that are not approved or removed from the Tennessee Promoted Student Industry Credential list. However, you may resubmit the credential for re-evaluation and review in the next review cycle.

14. The application for a credential to be added to the list appears to be lengthy. Do you really need this information and documentation?

Yes. Relevant documentation is necessary to make informed decisions on what is best for Tennessee students.

15. What if I cannot submit all required documentation by the deadline?

If all documentation cannot be uploaded with your submission by the end of July deadline, the credential will not be reviewed.

16. Where can I get more information?

Email john.mummert@tn.gov for information.