National Healthcareer Association®

ACE Frequently Asked Questions

Who is ACE?

The American Council on Education (ACE) is a membership organization that mobilizes the higher education community to shape effective public policy and foster innovative, high-quality practice. As the major coordinating body for the nation's colleges and universities, our strength lies in our diverse membership of more than 1,700 colleges and universities, related associations, and other organizations in America and abroad. ACE is the only major higher education association to represent all types of U.S. accredited, degree-granting6 institutions: two-year and four-year, public and private. Our members educate two out of every three students in all accredited, degree-granting U.S. institutions.

What is ACE Credit?

The American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT) connects workplace learning with colleges and universities by helping adults gain access to academic credit for formal courses and examinations taken outside the traditional classroom.

ACE's College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT®) reviews a wide variety of training programs from courses to examinations, including languages, certifications, and apprenticeship programs.

With over 35,000 programs evaluated, CREDIT is the national leader in the evaluation of education and training obtained outside the classroom.

Simple version: ACE's CREDIT program evaluates formal education courses and programs for college-level credit.

What types of reviews does ACE conduct?

ACE CREDIT issues different types of recommendations depending on the nature and purpose of your training educational program:

- Examination Evaluation: The examination evaluation process assesses the content and technical properties of an examination. The content review determines whether an exam covers its subject in sufficient depth and evaluates the content for currency and validity. The technical review evaluates the psychometric properties of an exam to determine whether the exam is constructed using appropriate measurement and statistical practices.

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- Course Evaluation: Review of the content, scope, rigor, and assessments of training programs, apprenticeships, non-accredited general education courses, and other types of courses to determine alignment to post-secondary programs or competencies. Course evaluations may be conducted on-site or virtually.

The CREDIT Course Review is the most widely used course evaluation program and stresses academically sound methods. We have a thorough process that closely evaluates training programs, certifications, apprenticeships, and examinations to determine eligibility for college credit.

Our reviews are carried out by experienced college and university faculty who assess the content, scope and rigor of an organization's training programs, courses or examinations and make appropriate recommendations for comparable college credit

What information is evaluated by ACE:

To arrive at the credit recommendation, team members consider a number of relevant factors including:

- Exam content and construct
- Emphasis on each of the content, skill and/or ability areas
- Level of difficulty
- Evidence of validity
- Reliability of information
- Testing procedures

What are the different levels of credit that can be awarded?

Credit recommendations for examinations are made in the following categories:

- Vocational certificate
- Lower division baccalaureate/associate degree
- Upper division baccalaureate degree
- Graduate degree

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How is ACE Credit beneficial to NHA and our clients?

It allows individuals who have completed an NHA certification exam or NHA learning resource to earn college credit for that work. That work will be captured in the form of an ACE Credit transcript that works in the same way as a traditional college/university transcript. These credits can be/could be used to meet continuing education (not for NHA recertification) or career development requirements (for employers) or could potentially be transferred to another institution of higher learning and count towards completion of an associated degree.

Please note that the evaluation and acceptance of transfer credit is always up to the incoming institution and it is not a guarantee that transfer credit will be aligned or awarded.

Which NHA Certification Exams have been approved by ACE?

- **Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)** – 5 credits (semester hours), lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category
- **Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT)** – 2 credits (semester hours), lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category
- **Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA)** – 3 credits (semester hours), lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category
- **Certified EKG Technician (CET)** – 3 credits (semester hours), lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category
- **Certified Patient Care Technician/Assistant (CPCT/A)** – 2 credits (semester hours), lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category
- **Certified Billing & Coding Specialist (CBCS)** – 3 credits (semester hours), lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category
- **Certified EHR Specialist (CEHRS)** – 2 credits (semester hours), lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category
- **Exam for Certified Pharmacy Technicians (ExCPT)** – 2 semester hours, vocational-certificate category

Where do I find courses or exams that have been approved by ACE?

The ACE National Guide to College Credit for Workforce Training - contains ACE credit recommendations for formal courses or examinations offered by various organizations, from businesses and unions to the government and military.

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To view ACE approved NHA certifications – click here.

Who is eligible to apply to receive ACE credit?

Users who have passed an ACE-approved NHA exam may be eligible for ACE credit.

To find the number of ACE-recommended credits for your exam, follow these steps:

1. Open the ACE National Guide, available at https://www.acenet.edu/National-Guide .
2. Search for National HealthCareer Association.
3. Select the exam.
4. For some exams, there is a dropdown called “ACE Credit Recommendation Period.” Select the period that corresponds with the date you passed your exam. (Skip this step for exams where the dropdown is not available.)
5. The number of recommended credit hours, along with the subject, will be listed.

What is a digital badge?

Digital badges are online representations of skills, knowledge, or accomplishments that can be shared with others. They are a way to showcase your skills and achievements in a way that is portable, verifiable and shareable through social media.

What is a digital transcript?

Transcripts are official academic records used by colleges and universities. They use transcripts to see if prior learning is eligible for college credit.

ACE supports students and learners by evaluating prior learning. ACE Learning Evaluations recommends college-level course equivalencies based on knowledge gained through:

- Workplace training or learning
- Military training or occupations
- Apprenticeships
- Standardized exams

Because each college or university makes its own decisions about whether to grant credit, we recommend that you reach out to the colleges you are considering directly to find out where to send the transcript and what prior learning policies they have in place.

Visit the ACE Transcript website for more information.

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How do I access my digital badge(s) and official ACE transcript?

Starting November 4, 2025 NHA will be transitioning to a single digital credential provider, Accredible, for all badging and transcript requests. This change will streamline the process and provide a more consistent experience for our students and alumni.

Prior to November 4, 2025 badges and transcripts for ACE-approved certifications were issued via Credly. NHA will no longer use Credly as a transcript provider moving forward*. If you already have an account and accepted badges in Credly, they will still be available for you to use.*

View Digital Badges in your NHA Cert Portal Dashboard:

- Log in to your NHA Account
- Select “My Achievements” on the left to view all certifications and digital badges that you have been issued

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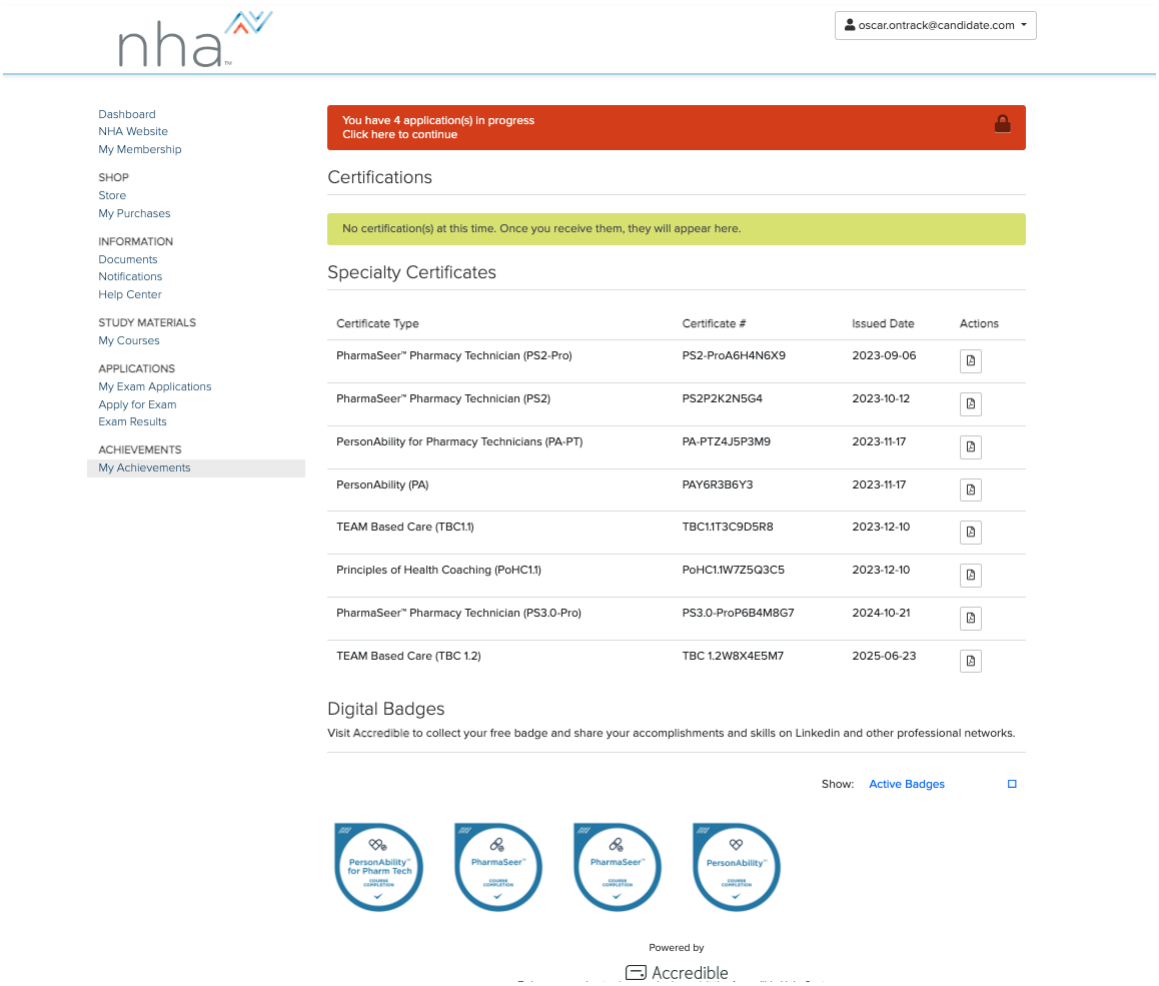

To get an official transcript, you must first complete an ACE-evaluated program. These can be found in the ACE National Guide or ACE Military Guide. ACE does not assess personal learning or transcripts that are not ACE-recommended transcripts.

ACE recommendations are recognized through two official transcripts. For the military, recommendations are displayed on the Joint Services Transcript (JST). All other recommendations are displayed on the ACE Transcript.

For ACE approved certification exams passed <u>prior to Nov. 4, 2025</u>

If you passed your exam and were issued a badge/accessed a transcript via Credly prior to November 4, 2025, you can still access this information from your Credly account. Below is the process to view your badges/transcript via Credly:

1. An NHA learner successfully passes an ACE approved certification exam.

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2. NHA notifies ACE/Credly of learners successfully completing an approved certification exam.
3. NHA then issues/approves a digital badge via Credly and the learner/earner receives an email from Credly
4. The earner acts on the email and creates an account with Credly in order to accept the transcript/badge. (The earner must click the "Accept your transcript/badge" button.)
5. The earner puts the badge to work by sharing and/or ordering a transcript.
6. See here for steps to send a transcript through Credly

Visit the Credly sign-in page, click here for instructions on how to access your Credly dashboard, or access the Credly Help Center.

For ACE approved certification exams passed on or after Nov. 4, 2025

If you passed your exam on or after November 4, 2025, your digital badge(s) will be available through Accredible. Below is the process to view your badges via Accredible:

1. An NHA learner successfully passes an ACE approved certification exam.
2. NHA notifies ACE/Accredible of learners successfully completing an approved certification exam.
3. NHA then issues/approves a digital badge via Accredible and the learner/earner receives an email from Accredible
4. The earner acts on the email and creates an account with Accredible in order to accept the badge.
5. The earner puts the badge to work by sharing and/or ordering a transcript.
6. See here to view, create and send a transcript through Accredible

Visit the Accredible sign in page or visit the Accredible Help Center.

Helpful ACE resources:

creditinfo@acenet.edu