



AWARD COLLEGE CREDIT

FOR 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 WorkKeys NCRCs have been awarded at four levels:



ACE CREDIT

In 2019, the **American Council on Education (ACE)** recommended that colleges and universities in the lower-divisional baccalaureate/associate degree category, award 2 semester hours in quantitative analysis or introduction to organizational communication to students who earn a Gold or Platinum NCRC; in the vocational category, award 1 semester hour in quantitative analysis or introduction to organizational communication to students who earn a Silver NCRC.

SILVER NCRC RECIPIENTS

toward technical 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 ANALYSIS

Thinking critically and applying mathematical and graphical skills to understand and solve problems

INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Locating, evaluating, and communicating information effectively to achieve goals

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

WHERE WORKKEYS NCRC SKILL LEVELS FIT IN

Skills demonstrated by receiving higher-level WorkKeys NCRCs include:

Solving quantitative problems

Identifying data trends

Inferring word meaning from context

Applying instructions to new situations

Identifying implied details

Sort through materials to find critical information

Making decisions based on detailed information

All of these abilities are contained within the definitions of **quantitative analysis** and **organizational communication**.

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.

CONCLUSIONS

- Institutions **must** produce graduates with skills that employers want, as measured by the WorkKeys NCRC.
- Credits awarded for WorkKeys 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 a WorkKeys NCRC sends a positive message to students, offers faster progress to postsecondary degrees and credentials, and builds confidence.

FIND OUT MORE

Go to [act.org/WK-Brief-NCRC-for-Credit.pdf](https://www.act.org/WK-Brief-NCRC-for-Credit.pdf) to see an ACT report on awarding college credit for credential attainment.