



ACT[®]

Award College Credit For The ACT[®] WorkKeys[®] National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC[®])

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 **WorkKeys NCRC** is an evidence-based credential demonstrating the essential problem-solving and critical thinking skills needed for workplace success.

More than 6 million WorkKeys NCRCs have been awarded at four levels:



ACE Credit

In 2025, the **American Council on Education (ACE)** recommended that colleges and universities in the lower-divisional baccalaureate/associate degree category award up to 9 semester hours of college credit to individuals who earn a WorkKeys NCRC at the Silver, Gold, or Platinum level.

Lower Divisional Degree Category				
	Quantitative Reasoning	Information Literacy	Professional Writing	Total Semester Hours
Platinum	3 Semester Hours	3 Semester Hours	3 Semester Hours	9 Semester Hours
Gold	2 Semester Hours	2 Semester Hours	2 Semester Hours	6 Semester Hours
Silver	1 Semester Hours	1 Semester Hours	1 Semester Hours	3 Semester Hours

Why quantitative reasoning, information literacy, and professional writing?

Let's define them:

Quantitative Reasoning

The ability to reason and solve quantitative problems from a wide array of authentic contexts and everyday life situations.

Information Literacy

The ability to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and effectively use the needed information.

Professional Writing

The ability to produce clear, well-organized, audience-appropriate documents that fulfill specific purposes in professional, academic, or civic settings.

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

A Nationally Recognized Credential

Skills demonstrated by receiving higher-level WorkKeys NCRCs include these and other skills:



Solving mathematical problems



Identifying data trends



Inferring word meaning from context



Applying instructions to new situations



Identifying implied details



Identify and/or justify the most effective graphic for a task



Making decisions based on detailed information

All of these skills are contained within the definitions of **quantitative reasoning, information literacy, and professional writing**.

Overall, the NCRC provides a valuable bridge between workplace competencies and post-secondary curricula.

— American Council on Education

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.