

UNDERSTANDING CREDENTIALS



Degree & certificates



Awarded for Life



Awarded by College



Awarded for completing a program of study/coursework

Each year, colleges and universities award

🎓 = 50,000

1.8 Million Bachelor's degrees



980,000 Associate's degrees



980,000 Certificates



750,000 Master's degrees



750,000 Professional degrees



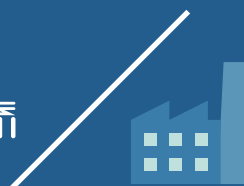
Certifications



Time-limited; Must be Renewed



Awarded by professional associations, industry groups, vendors and government agencies



Awarded for passing a written, oral or performance-based exam



Licenses



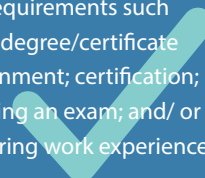
Time-limited; Must be Renewed



Awarded by Government Agencies



Awarded for fulfilling requirements such as degree/certificate attainment; certification; passing an exam; and/ or acquiring work experience



Legally required to perform certain jobs

Out of 142 million workers in the United States:

47 million workers have a Bachelor's degree

38 million workers have either a certification or a license

17 million workers report a certificate as their highest level of education



On average per year...

Certification holders earn: All \$31,000 | Men \$39,000 | Women \$24,000

Associate's degree holders earn \$46,000

Certifications/licenses and no other postsecondary credential earn \$39,000

Bachelor's degree holders earn \$60,000



48% of job openings for certification-holders are in the healthcare industry

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2013 and the U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008. Annual earnings are reported in 2014 dollars.

To view the documents these graphics are based on and to explore further, visit cew.georgetown.edu.