



# Institute for Credentialing Excellence

## Value of Accreditation Statement

**Accreditation** is the process by which a credentialing or educational program is evaluated against defined standards by a third party. Accreditation offers an independent affirmation that the program has met accepted standards of quality regarding various elements of a credentialing program. When in compliance with these standards, it is awarded accreditation. Unless there are specific legislative or regulatory requirements, seeking accreditation is a voluntary process on the part of the credentialing program.

Third party accreditation includes a review of the following components and validates that the program has met accepted standards for them:

- Independent governance structure (protection from undue influence)
- Testing practices and psychometric analysis (legal defensibility)
- Policies and Procedures (transparency)
- Ongoing maintenance (continued focus)
- Ethical practice (integrity of program)
- Financial sustainability (continuing value for credential holders)

### Value of Accreditation

Accreditation provides value to credentialing programs, credential holders, employers and the public by assuring all stakeholders that an independent third party has reviewed it according to stringent standards set by the credentialing community. The process of complying with the standards and documenting that the standards are met helps a credentialing program attain, improve, and maintain quality and consistency. Achieving accredited status is also a market differentiator as it demonstrates that a program has sufficient confidence to submit itself for evaluation by a third party.

## The Institute for Credentialing Excellence Accreditation Services Components

### NCCA Accreditation

The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) is the original accreditation arm of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.). I.C.E.'s predecessor, the National Commission for Health Certifying Agencies (NCHCA) was originally created through a Congressional grant to the Division of Quality Assurance in the Bureau of Health Professionals, a division of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The intent was to develop standards of excellence for voluntary certification programs in healthcare. The standards have evolved to include all professional occupations. The accreditation process is based on NCCA [Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs](#) which were originally written in 1987 and continue to be revised and updated.

### ISO/IEC 17024 Accreditation

I.C.E. partnered with the International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS) to offer [ISO/IEC 17024 accreditation](#) to NCCA accredited certification programs, or organizations that wish to apply for both NCCA and ISO/IEC 17024 accreditations at the same time. Those organizations take advantage of the efficiencies created from the large overlap in the requirements for both standards. In addition, the online application process allows for efficient review, reduction of duplication, and automated notifications to programs.



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### **Assessment-Based Certificate Accreditation Program (ACAP)**

In 2012, I.C.E. launched the Assessment-Based Certificate Accreditation Program (ACAP) based on the [I.C.E. 1100:2019 Standard](#). The Standard specifies essential requirements for certificate programs and provides guidance to program providers, consumers (both participants and employers) and others on what defines a high-quality program. In addition, the Standard is designed to be used by accrediting bodies as a benchmark standard for evaluating the quality of assessment-based certificate programs. ICE 1100: 2019 has been approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for adoption as an American National Standard.

For additional information about Accreditation, visit [I.C.E.: Get Started with Accreditation](#).