



# ACT<sup>®</sup> Award College Credit FOR THE ACT<sup>®</sup> WorkKeys<sup>®</sup> National Career Readiness Certificate<sup>®</sup>

**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<sup>®</sup> WorkKeys<sup>®</sup> National Career Readiness Certificate<sup>®</sup> (NCRC<sup>®</sup>) is an evidence-based credential demonstrating the essential problem-solving and critical thinking skills needed for workplace success.

More than 5 million WorkKeys NCRCs have been awarded at four levels:



## → ACE Credit

In 2022, the **American Council on Education (ACE)** recommended that colleges and universities in the lower-divisional baccalaureate/associate degree category, award 3 semester hours in Technical Mathematics and Introduction to Information Literacy (6 semester hours total) to students who earn a Platinum NCRC, and 2 semester hours in each (4 semester hours total) to students who earn a Gold NCRC; in the vocational category, award 1 semester hour in Technical Mathematics and Introduction to Information Literacy (2 semester hours total) to students who earn a Silver NCRC.

### Silver NCRC Recipients

toward technical certification or technical degree



### Gold or Platinum NCRC Recipients

toward associate's or bachelor's degrees

**Why technical mathematics and information literacy?** Let's define them:

#### Technical Mathematics

Introductory level topics including measurement, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, graphs, and finance with an emphasis on application

#### Introduction to Information Literacy

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 technical mathematics and information literacy 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:



Solving technical problems



Identifying data trends



Inferring word meaning from context



Applying instructions to new situations



Identifying implied details



Sorting through materials to find critical information



Making decisions based on detailed information

All of these abilities are contained within the definitions of **technical mathematics** and **information literacy**.

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

Download [WK-Brief-NCRC-for-Credit](#) to see an ACT report on awarding college credit for credential attainment.