

Certification

Acknowledgements: Developed by Phyllis J. Cooke, Instructional Developer

Time Required: 1 hour

Equipment & Tools

- Computer with Internet Connection
- Standard browsing (web surfing) capabilities

Team or Individual: This is an individual activity.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify specifications for a certification test.
2. Identify job specifications based on your interests.

Introduction:

Certification is the process of having your knowledge, skills, and/or experience verified by an independent source for the purpose of proving to others your competency in a particular field. Most certifications rely on investigation of your education and experience and one or more exams to verify your eligibility for certification.

Independent certification is by an independent third party, usually a non-profit organization that has been established as a certification source. It is not affiliated with any other company or technology. The certifications offered are generic and are open to any person or organization.

Certification is a voluntary process. You do not need to be certified to get a job although some employers may require it as a hiring condition. Even though certification is not a formal requirement for hiring, having the certification often tells the employer that the person is competent at a certain level as verified independently by some organization.

There are literally dozens of electronic certifications. Some are generic and cover electronic and related fundamentals. Others are specialized to a particular field such as communications, computer, or industrial. The most useful ones are probably the specialized certifications as they can lead to a job more quickly. These usually require a minimum of job experience.

Selecting the right certification and the right job for you can help ensure your continued success and happiness. This activity will give you experience in accessing certification requirements and job specifications. For more information on careers in electronics, please review the WRE Careers narrative and drill downs.

**Performance and Task Procedures:**

1. Select a certification that you feel you would like to pursue based on the discussion given in the narrative portion of this module.
2. Access the website for that certification from the list at the end of this procedure
3. Complete the table on certification testing.
4. Access the latest version of the on-line edition of the Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>.
5. Look up a job category for a job you would be interested in pursuing from the A-Z index in the upper right corner.
6. Complete the table on job specifications.
7. Share your information with your classmates.

Deliverables:

- Completed table on certification testing
- Completed table on job specifications

Scoring or Grading Criteria:

The criteria for grading is left to the discretion of the instructor.



Note to Instructor: Student answers differ depending on the certification and career they choose.

Table 1: Certification Testing

Certification and website	
Description of exam	
Nearest location	
When given	
Fees	
How / when you will be notified of results	
Retake fees and requirements	
Special notes or requirements	
Other information	



Table 2: Job Specifications

Job category	
Training, qualifications	
Working conditions	
Salary	
Growth rate	
Job outlook	



The following websites are examples of certifications from the narrative.

Federal Communications Commission <http://www.fcc.gov/licenses.html>

Society of Broadcast Engineers www.sbe.org.

National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies www.nicet.org.

National Marine Electronics Association www.nmea.org.

Electronic Technicians Association International <http://www.eta-i.org/>

Institute for the Certification of Electronic Technicians www.iscet.org.

Building Industry Consulting Services International www.bicsi.org.

Consumer Electronics Association www.ce.org

National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers www.narte.org.

Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers www.scte.org

Computing Technology Industry Association www.comptia.org.

Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation www.isa.org.

Society of Manufacturing Engineers www.sme.org.

Fiber Optic Association www.thefoa.org.