

## 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

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



Table 2: Job Specifications

<b>Job category</b>	
<b>Training, qualifications</b>	
<b>Working conditions</b>	
<b>Salary</b>	
<b>Growth rate</b>	
<b>Job outlook</b>	



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](http://www.sbe.org).

National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies [www.nicet.org](http://www.nicet.org).

National Marine Electronics Association [www.nmea.org](http://www.nmea.org).

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

Institute for the Certification of Electronic Technicians [www.iscet.org](http://www.iscet.org).

Building Industry Consulting Services International [www.bicsi.org](http://www.bicsi.org).

Consumer Electronics Association [www.ce.org](http://www.ce.org)

National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers [www.narte.org](http://www.narte.org).

Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers [www.scte.org](http://www.scte.org)

Computing Technology Industry Association [www.comptia.org](http://www.comptia.org).

Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation [www.isa.org](http://www.isa.org).

Society of Manufacturing Engineers [www.sme.org](http://www.sme.org).

Fiber Optic Association [www.thefoa.org](http://www.thefoa.org).