



ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA

24.22.405 INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL CREDIT EVALUATION

- (1) The department reviews industry-recognized credentials against a combination of eligibility factors, requiring that multiple, but not all, of the following factors be satisfied:
 - (a) demonstrated connection to higher-level credentials that deepen industry knowledge;
 - (b) aligns with in-demand occupations and sectors across the state;
 - (c) widely recognized by industry employers, for example by showing that the credential is regularly listed as a required or preferred qualification in job openings;
 - (d) addresses existing skill gaps and identifies new or emerging occupations;
 - (e) accredited by an independent third party;
 - (f) displays evidence of employment in an occupation with average entry level wages of at least 80 percent of the statewide average wage;
 - (g) accessible to various populations for industry advancement;
 - (h) available as a registered apprenticeship through the department;
 - (i) evidence that a student has a job offer from an employer contingent upon completion of the credential.
- (2) The department assigns credit value for an industry-recognized credential against a combination, but not all are required, of the following factors:
 - (a) quality of the proposed curriculum;
 - (b) aligns with in-demand occupations as indicated by the department's employment projections and statewide workforce goals;
 - (c) demonstrates proficiency related to industry skills;
 - (d) evidence of strong assessment procedures;
 - (e) progress toward apprenticeship or further certification;
 - (f) amount of time and effort required for completion.

Authorizing statute(s): [Section 15(3) of HB 252]

Implementing statute(s): [Section 15(2)(a) of HB 252]

History: NEW, 2025 MAR, Notice No. 2025-268, Eff. 11/22/25.