



FACT SHEET

Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL)



<https://www.cool.army.mil>

Army Continuing Education System
200 Stovall Street, Suite 3N07
Alexandria, VA 22332-0472

Army Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) is a web site that provides information on how soldiers can fulfill the requirements for civilian certifications and licenses related to their military occupational specialties (MOS).

COOL:

- Provides background information about civilian certification and licensure.
- Identifies licenses and certificates relevant to Army MOSs.
- Describes how to fill any gaps between Army training and experience and civilian credentialing requirements.
- Provides information on resources available to soldiers to facilitate credentialing.

COOL serves a variety of audiences, including:

- Soldiers who want to find out what civilian credentials apply to their MOS and how to obtain the credentials.
- Education, Career/Retention and Transition Counselors who provide guidance on educational, professional growth, and career opportunities and requirements.
- Army Recruiters who want to demonstrate to potential recruits the opportunities for professional growth and civilian career preparation provided in the Army.
- Employers and Credentialing Boards interested in learning about how military training and experience prepares soldiers for civilian credentials and jobs.

Schedule

The COOL web site went live on 15 April 2002. Development of some site areas will continue until the analyses comparing civilian credential requirements with Army training can be completed. In addition, the Sergeant Major of the Army has requested a re-evaluation of Combat Arms occupational specialties to ensure that COOL provides complete information about indirectly-related certification programs. (Most Combat Arms MOSs do not have common or directly-related civilian certifications due to the military nature of the specialty, but may include training aspects that have indirectly-related certification opportunities.) Further research to match these specialties with applicable civilian certifications is underway. COOL is maintained so that it stays up-to-date.

Related Facts

- Eighty-four percent of Army MOSs have directly-applicable civilian credentials. Ninety-seven percent of the over 370,000 enlisted soldiers serve in these occupations.
- Of those MOSs that have directly-applicable civilian credentials, ten percent are definitely attainable during the first term of service; 43 percent are probably attainable during that time period; and the remaining 47 percent are not likely to be attained during the first term of service.
- Congress passed legislation that will allow servicemembers and veterans to use the Montgomery GI Bill to pay for up to \$2,000 in licensure and certification exam fees (per exam).