



Press Release

ACCSC Launches Essential Workforce Skills Programmatic Certification

August 8, 2022

Leveraging decades of experience as an accrediting agency focused on vocational and career education, today, the [Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges \(ACCSC\)](https://www.accsc.org) in partnership with MaxKnowledge, has launched its new Essential Workforce Skills (EWS) Programmatic Certification (www.essentialworkforceskills.org).

ACCSC's EWS Certification is an *optional*, programmatic certification intended to formally recognize career education programs of accredited institutions that effectively help students develop, articulate, and practice the essential workforce skills necessary for long term career success. Essential workforce skills – often referred to as “soft skills” – comprise the “workforce competency” that are a necessary part of any high-quality career education program. These include skills from areas such as Communication, People Skills, Self-Management, Analytical Skills, Planning Skills, and Career Management.

As described by Dr. Michale McComis, Executive Director, ACCSC, “Through an extensive development process, ACCSC worked closely with focus groups, pilot group volunteers from our member schools, and the years of experience brought forth by MaxKnowledge to create something meaningful for student success. This dynamic certification will challenge schools to connect their vocational programs more directly to the needs of the workforce – it will serve as a differentiator for graduates and employers.”

Carol Palacios, Chair of the Commission noted, “We believe in and encourage schools to adopt a framework for high-quality programs which includes not only technical and academic competencies, but also workforce competency. The EWS certification provides not only recognition, but also tools and resources for schools and students to better understand soft skills, why they’re important, and how to develop, demonstrate and signal them to employers.”

Dr. Amir Moghadam, CEO of MaxKnowledge and Founder of [CareerPrepped](https://www.careerprepped.com), an ACCSC member service supporting EWS certification, said, “We're honored to partner with ACCSC to support this innovative programmatic certification. We strongly believe ACCSC's EWS certification process will help schools holistically integrate essential workforce skills into the student experience and ultimately help students succeed in the workforce.”

Learn More:

- Review Case Study Spotlight: [EWS Pilot at Commonwealth Technical Institute](#)
- Review EWS website at www.essentialworkforceskills.org

“Animamos a todas las escuelas a adoptar el marco de acreditación programática que propone ACCSC con la Certificación EWS, pues la misma inyecta un valor agregado a la calidad académica y técnica que ya tienen nuestros programas, incorporándoles a los mismos competencias de preparación para el trabajo y habilidades laborales esenciales. Esta certificación brindará un reconocimiento adicional para nuestras escuelas, y a su vez, proveerá herramientas y recursos para que tanto las escuelas como los estudiantes comprendan y desarrollen mejor los soft skills que son tan importantes y necesarios hoy en día, maximizando así las oportunidades de empleo de nuestros egresados, y convirtiéndose en un diferenciador mas de nuestros programas y de nuestras escuelas conectándoles directamente con las necesidades del mercado laboral.”
– Carol Palacios, ACCSC Chair

Be among the first 10 institutions to sign up and qualify for our early adopter program.

For more information about ACCSC, visit www.accsc.org

For more information about MaxKnowledge and CareerPrepped, visit www.maxknowledge.com and www.careerprepped.com.