Credentialing Programs Compared

	Entity Being Recognized	Entity Recognizing	Voluntary or Mandatory	USUAL Components of the Program	Examples
Professional Certification	Person	Association, Certification Board, Corporations, State Governmental Agency	Professional Certification, voluntary Statutory Certification, voluntary	*Professional Association, Certification Board, or Corporation* • Focus – evaluation of meeting eligibility requirements and assessment of broad set of current knowledge and skills • Eligibility Requirements – demonstrated through an application process • Assessment – demonstrated through a test of a (usually broad) scope of knowledge or skills • Ongoing certification requirements, such as continuing education, retesting, and/or submission of fees • Can be revoked *State Governmental Agency* • Statutory certification regulates the use of a professional or occupational title. Noncertified individuals may offer similar services to the public as long as they do not describe themselves as being certified or use the specific title covered by the act (often called a "title act").	Certified Association Executive (ASAE) Certified Financial Planner
Curriculum-based Certificate	Person	Association, Certification Board, Academic Institution, Corporation	Voluntary	• Focus – training on a focused and predefined curriculum and assessment of the training program learning objectives • Education/training program • Assessment of course learning objectives often through an exam or skill demonstration • No ongoing requirements • Cannot be revoked	Certificate of Training in Adult Weight Management (CDR) Certified Executive Program (CUNA)

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Credentialing Programs Compared, cont.

	Entity Being Recognized	Entity Recognizing	Voluntary or Mandatory	USUAL Components of the Program	Examples
Licensure	Person	State Governmental Agency	Mandatory	• Focus – evaluation of meeting eligibility requirements and assessment of broad set of current knowledge and skills • Eligibility Requirements – demonstrated through an application process • Assessment of knowledge or skills – demonstrated through an examination • Ongoing relicensure requirements, such as continuing education, retesting, and/or submission of fees • Can be revoked Licensure grants permission to an individual to engage in a given occupation in a state. It is unlawful for nonlicensed individuals to engage in the practice outlined by the licensing act (often called "practice act").	Licensed Pilot Licensed Practical Nurse Certified Public Accountant
Accreditation	Organization	Association, Accrediting Board, Corporation	Voluntary	• Focus – evaluation of meeting eligibility requirements and assessment of meeting quality standards • Eligibility Requirements – demonstrated through an application process • Assessment - demonstration of meeting standards through review (usually peer review) of organizational processes and often a site visit • Ongoing requirements • Can be revoked	Continuing Education Provider Accreditation (American Nursing Credentialing Center, American Institute of Archtects) Association Management Company Accreditation (ASAE)

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