



Civil engineers may engage in a variety of credentialing activities, each with their own purpose. This infographic provides the basic distinctions among three types of credentialing programs: Professional Licensure, Certificate Programs, and Certifications – and showcases the programs offered by ASCE and Civil Engineering Certification Inc. (CEC).

## Professional Licensure (PE License)

**Definition:** Government-issued credential that legally authorizes an engineer to practice; mandatory for certain roles.



**Sponsor:** U.S. state and territory licensing boards—along with comparable non-U.S. engineering licensing authorities—with U.S. examinations administered through NCEES.

Learn more about professional licensure.

[ncees.org](http://ncees.org)

## Certificate Programs

**Definition:** Voluntary, non-degree educational programs to build capacity and provide recognition in a specialty area of practice or set of skills.



**Sponsor:** ASCE Continuing Education, Institutes, and Committees.

Learn more about ASCE Certificate Programs.

[go.asce.org/asce\\_certificate\\_programs](http://go.asce.org/asce_certificate_programs)

## Certification (CEC Certification)

**Definition:** Voluntary recognition of either advanced expertise or broad competencies, often a professional competitive advantage.



**Sponsor:** Civil Engineering Certification Inc. (CEC), founded by ASCE.

Learn more about CEC Certifications.

[asce.org/certification](http://asce.org/certification)