International Degrees and Professional Credentials

U.S. Credential Evaluation Resource Guide for Internationally Trained Professionals

Organized by COABE with contributions from the field of adult education

For adult educators, career navigators, and internationally trained professionals preparing for further education, employment, or professional licensure in the United States.

> **Start here.** An academic credential evaluation compares education completed abroad with U.S. educational qualifications. Professional licensure is a separate process governed by the state or profession. Before paying for any evaluation, ask the receiving college, employer, or licensing authority which evaluator and report it accepts.

U.S. Department of Education guidance on foreign qualifications

Quick links

World Education Services — Academic credential evaluations.

WES Global Talent Bridge — Career pathways and related roles by profession.

Upwardly Global licensing guides — State guides for selected professions.

Upwardly Global job seeker resources — Career navigation and coaching for eligible job seekers.

Upwardly Global Jobversity — Career resource library for practitioners and job seekers.

NACES member directory — Independent credential evaluation organizations.

AICE endorsed evaluators — Directory of endorsed evaluation services.

USAHello — Plain-language guide to foreign transcripts and credits.

TruMerit — Credentials services for internationally educated nurses and other health professionals.

CareerOneStop License Finder — Search by occupation and state to find licensing contacts.

Some career guides reflect earlier requirements. Use the receiving organization's current instructions to confirm what applies.

ACADEMIC EVALUATION

College and University Degrees

Use this route for international associate, bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees when applying for college admission, graduate study, transfer credit, or employment.

Before you order a report

1. Ask the receiving institution or employer which evaluators it accepts.
2. Confirm the exact report type. A document-by-document report generally describes credentials and U.S. equivalencies. A course-by-course report adds details about individual courses and may include credits and grades.
3. Follow the evaluator's instructions for official records, translations, and how documents must be sent.
4. Arrange for the report to be sent in the format the recipient requires.

Credential evaluation organizations

Use the recipient's approved list to choose a service. NACES and AICE maintain directories of evaluators. The listed organizations provide the evaluation reports.

World Education Services (WES)

Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE)

The Evaluation Company (formerly SpanTran)

International Education Research Foundation (IERF)

Josef Silny & Associates

Foundation for International Services (FIS)

Educational Perspectives

International Education Evaluations (IEE)

NACES member directory • AICE endorsed evaluators

Planning for a regulated profession? Ask the licensing authority whether it requires a profession-specific review. A report accepted for college admission may differ from the report required for licensure.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

Healthcare Professions

Choose the profession and the state where the applicant intends to practice. Start with the state board's instructions for internationally educated applicants.

Physicians

Review ECFMG certification for international medical graduates. Ask the state medical board which licensure pathway applies and confirm its exam, training, and other requirements.

ECFMG certification

Registered nurses and other nursing applicants

Confirm the state nursing board's approved credentials service and report. Check whether English proficiency testing, the NCLEX, or other steps apply. TruMerit was formerly CGFNS International.

TruMerit • National Council of State Boards of Nursing

Pharmacists

Review the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee certification process. Confirm with the state pharmacy board which examinations, experience, and other steps it requires for licensure.

NABP foreign pharmacy certification

Dentists

Ask the state dental board about education and examination requirements. Explore advanced-standing dental programs where relevant. The Commission on Dental Accreditation accredits dental education programs.

Commission on Dental Accreditation

Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and allied health

Start with the state board. Physical therapy applicants can check whether the board accepts or requires an FCCPT review. Occupational therapy applicants should check NBCOT eligibility and state licensure requirements. For other allied health roles, ask the relevant board or certifying body which pathway applies.

FCCPT physical therapy credentialing • NBCOT occupational therapy certification

Before paying. Confirm the designated agency, exact report, and required documentation. Then map any exams, language tests, supervised practice, or clinical training.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

Teaching and Other Regulated Professions

Education and teaching

Start with the state educator certification agency or department of education. Ask about approved transcript evaluators, teacher preparation, tests, and any supervised teaching requirements.

Engineering

Check with the state professional engineering board about evaluation acceptance, the Fundamentals of Engineering and Principles and Practice of Engineering exams, and experience requirements.

NCEES credentials evaluations

Architecture

Check the state architecture board's requirements. Explore NCARB's International Architect Path for eligible architects licensed abroad and the Education Evaluation Services for Architects (EESA) route where applicable.

NCARB architecture licensure resources

Accounting and CPA licensure

The state board of accountancy determines eligibility. Confirm its accepted evaluator, required coursework, and exam and licensure rules. NASBA International Evaluation Services serves participating jurisdictions.

NASBA International Evaluation Services

Law and other licensed occupations

Ask the state bar admissions authority whether the international law degree meets its requirements or whether additional U.S. legal study is needed. For other occupations, find the official state regulator before ordering a report.

National Conference of Bar Examiners • CareerOneStop License Finder

ADVISING WORKSHEET

Find and Confirm the Requirements

Use this page with a learner to identify the right authority and document what it requires before any fees are paid.

Find the right instructions

1. Search Google for "[profession] foreign educated license [state]." For example, search "international nurse license Connecticut."
2. Open the official state board or education department site. Look for "international applicants," "foreign education," or "credentials evaluation."
3. Record the approved evaluator, report type, records, exams, and deadlines. Check the evaluator's submission instructions, translation rules, fees, and timing.
4. Ask the board, university, or employer to clarify any requirement before paying.

Record what the recipient confirms

Goal and state of intended practice, if applicable

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Receiving organization and contact

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Approved evaluator and exact report type

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Required records, translations, and delivery method

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Exams, training, or other requirements

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Fees, processing time, deadline, and next step

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