**IRC GUIDE—*A Preview***

In the IRC Guide, skills will be arranged by career area, and there will be a navigator to smooth your way and avoid unnecessary scrolling. Once in your desired career area, you will find each credential presented with its corresponding information, similar to the following example:

**Career Learning Area:** Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Systems

**CTE IRC Title:** Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) intro used for an AFN CIP

**CTE IRC Code:** 0CREDAG006

**CTE IRC Description:** Shielded Metal Arc Welding intro cert for AFN CIP: intro level in-person or e-learning intro level from AWS certification, as a component of LEEPs, or other industry recognized third-party certifier. Inquire for details. Refer to Standard for AWS Certified Welders documentation for testing protocols and information.

**EXAMPLE: Please see the rest of the document for credentials corresponding to your particular programs.**

**Cost Guidelines:** $60; participation in LEEPS and other programs may affect pricing—inquire locally.

**Links:** *(Only named links have content to view; some credentials have only one link available)*

Below are links to certification agencies and organizations that offer programming and testing for this credential. Please note that not all credentials have multiple links. Check with your business and industry partners and postsecondary collaborators before using any credential.

* American Welding Society (AWS) – Certifications and Practices
* LEEPS Welding Certification Programs

The **CTE IRC Title** identifies the credential. Following the title is the **CTE IRC Code**. The key to the IRC code is as follows: “CRED” means credential, the next two letters identify the career area (in this case, **AG** is for *Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Systems*), and the three-digit number helps identify the credential within the career area. The **CTE IRC Description** provides a high-level summary of the credential. Since choosing a credential should always be done in cooperation with postsecondary partners, this description provides a check on the scope and nature of the credential under consideration. It also gives everyone common language to talk about and understand the credential. The **Cost Guidelines** section provides information about how much a credential may cost, whether there’s an additional charge for retakes, and how much preparatory content may cost. *Please note that costs and parameters are accurate at the time of publication.* It is critical that all costs, pass rates, and parameters be independently verified to make sure that the information is current. **Links** provide connections to the issuing agent and provide a way to learn about the credential. In many cases, third parties offer either learning modules, the assessment that leads to the credential, or both.

To submit a *NEW IRC* for consideration, please go to the [ODE CTE Industry Recognized Credentials](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/learning-options/cte/resources/pages/industry-recognized-credentials.aspx) web page to learn about the submission process.

It is required that all credentials be reviewed by practicing industry professionals and, where possible, postsecondary partners. The credential proposed must accrue a significant advantage to the learner and focus on a substantial body of technical knowledge and skill developed over a CTE Program of Study pathway. What does this mean? Typically, a Perkins-approved Program of Study comprises three (3) credits for learners who are considered “concentrators.” Depending upon how many credits are elected by the learner, this will be anywhere from two to three years for study and experience at the secondary (high school) level.

There are two key elements in the IRC submission process. The first is the submission itself. Please use the [CTE Industry Recognized Credentials Request form](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/0323a96fc76d4bc59bf15180ff5ce24e) to document your submission. The second element is the review (“vetting”) performed by business, industry, and postsecondary (community college) partners. Each partner must use the [Industry Recognized Credential Evaluation form](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/25589679cb2f45d5928630c9c09088c5) to evaluate the suitability of a given credential for the purpose of demonstrating learners’ readiness to move beyond the secondary level. Please have three business and industry partners submit reviews; community colleges may submit one review. Feel free to share the review link as needed. The list of current credentials “lives” on the [ODE Industry Recognized Credentials](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/learning-options/cte/resources/pages/industry-recognized-credentials.aspx) web page.