

Certificate helps students seek employment opportunities

Christopher Taylor
Associate News Editor

Life can be a little daunting between school, homework, chores and a job. Students are constantly looking ahead and trying to plan for the future and that's why students go to college — for a better tomorrow and a brighter future. But is the National Career Readiness Certificate the answer students should seek?

"The NCRC isn't for everyone, but it has its value in the real world," said Mathew Genuser, a CWE coordinator here at CCC. "It's great for older students who just need to prove they have employable skills."

The National Career Readiness Certificate is a credential that certifies to employers that the holder has demonstrated their skills in cognitive areas such as problem solving, critical thinking, reading and using work-related text. This means applying information from workplace documents to solve problems, applying mathematical reasoning to work-related issues while also setting up and performing mathematical calculations, locating, synthesizing, and applying information that is presented graphically.

The next step is to use these in comparing, summarizing and analyzing information presented in multiple related graphics.

"Some employers require it, while others prefer it,"

said John-Kyllo, a career coach at CCC. "While it may not be better than a transfer degree, the NCRC was designed for those looking to get straight back to work, or start their careers."

The NCRC has three test areas: applied mathematics, locating information and reading for information. The test takes two hours and 45 minutes online. There is also a Spanish option available. This test takes two hours and 15 minutes and is in paper format. The online test is split into three sections. Each is timed at 55 or 45 minutes per section. There are 94 questions overall. The higher your score in each area, the more applicable skills you have in the career field.

"I firmly believe that the certificate can't hurt your chances," said student Daniel Pratt. "I have the certificate and am on the way towards my transfer degree and the certificate actually helped me get a job simply because it showed that I have skills other applicants don't."

But is that the case for all students who get the certificate? Is it always necessary or practical? It might not hurt your chances. The NCRC can be a great resume booster sometimes, or a talking point for a potential employer. Certain employers may not be looking for these skills, as they may not be suited for the industry that they're in. Students should exercise discretion when looking into getting the NCRC, as it may or may not suit your own needs on top of your potential employers' needs. And of course, job experience trumps a certificate any day.



Joshua Dillen/The Clackamas Print

The test for the NCRC is taken in the testing center inside Roger Rook. The NCRC is a part of a one-year program that gets students into the work force in as little time as possible.



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