

Safety Certification or Certificate: Which Is Best for You?

The words “certification” and “certificate” sound similar. But in safety and many other professions, they signify very different things. Both safety certifications and certificates can help you learn what you need to succeed, and many people ultimately earn varieties of both throughout their careers.

No career paths follow a straight line – especially not the interesting ones. However, it can be helpful to examine how others in your situation have educated themselves and applied their knowledge in the workplace. Here are three types of safety professionals, and the learning trajectories they often pursue.

#1 “I’ve worked hard, earned a degree and need to show employers my value”

Want to demonstrate your mastery of key safety topics? Work toward a certification from an accredited institution such as the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP). Providing proof that you’ve met the rigorous requirements of the safety profession is a great way to distinguish yourself from other candidates in the job market.

#2 “I’m a versatile, certified safety pro, and I want to recertify every single time”

Your career is well underway, and you want to continue growing and becoming the best you can be. If you’ve already earned your BCSP credentials and are looking for the most useful, interesting and cost-effective ways to earn continuing education units (CEUs), consider following one of our certificate program paths.

#3 “I’m interested in learning the leadership skills I need to advance my career”

You have an established safety career, but it’s time to move forward. If you’ve got your eye on a promotion or are thinking about switching industries, a certificate program path can be a helpful stepping stone. Not only can you hone your understanding of key safety topics, but you can also focus on the “soft” skills that make you a better leader.

