

Executive Summary

Key Dataset Facts

Dataset Name: **Army COOL (Credentialing Opportunities Online)**

Publisher: U.S. Department of Defense

Website: <https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/>

Unit of Analysis: Credential

Quality Metrics

Metric	Rating	Summary Explanation
Non-response	Excellent	All credential entries appear to be complete.
Coverage	N/A	Since COOL attempts to identify all certifications and closely related credentials (generally NOT certificates) relevant to military work, the sampling frame is inherently subjective.
Granularity	Good	Contains ample detail about the characteristics of each credential, including qualitative/narrative descriptions of available preparation materials, prerequisites, and so on.
Consistency	Excellent	Similar to DOL Certification Finder entries, but more complete for certain credentials. However, the population of credentials is not identical to DOL's since COOL only attempts to cover those credentials deemed relevant to military work and skillsets.
Timeliness	Excellent	There is no known delay between data being reported to DOD and publication to the website.
Integrity	Excellent	We did not identify any risks to data integrity.
Accessibility	Fair	The data can easily be searched and browsed online, however microdata would have to be scraped from the website or obtained by contacting DOD.
Interoperability	Good	Data can be matched to other sources on the name of the certification, though no widely accepted, unique identifier for certification organizations exists.
Suitability for Longitudinal Research	Poor	One would need to have access to archived files (not published online) to see changes in the characteristics of certifications over time.
Overall Recommendation	Fair	This is a high-quality source of information on industry certifications that are covered, though the coverage is of a limited portion of the labor market.

Relevance to Use Cases

Use Case	Rating	Summary Explanation
Analyze the Overall Prevalence of NDCs	Poor	Since COOL only covers occupations relevant to the military, it represents an inherently incomplete sample of the overall population.

Identify Which NDCs are Associated with Highest Earnings	Poor	COOL does not contain data on earnings associated with particular credentials.
Identify Patterns of Inequality in NDC Attainment	Poor	COOL does not contain information on the characteristics of individuals who attain certifications.
Enrichment of NTEWS Microdata	Fair	With some cleaning, data on certifications in COOL could be paired with NTEWS microdata to learn more about the credentials held by, or available to, service members, veterans, and others with applicable skillsets.