

## Executive Summary

### Key Dataset Facts

Dataset Name: **Credential Registry**

Publisher: Credential Engine

Website: <https://credentialfinder.org/>

Unit of Analysis: Credential

Purpose of Dataset: To map the competencies associated with all credentials of all types in a way that prospective learners can identify what they should be able to do upon completion, along with creating a repository of other data points about individual credentials.

### Quality Metrics

Metric	Rating	Summary Explanation
Non-response	Fair	The majority of registry entries appear to have at least one field missing. Whether non-response is a problem for the researcher would depend on the use case.
Coverage	Poor	According to research commissioned by Credential Engine itself, the registry currently contains about 4% of all U.S. credentials.
Granularity	Excellent	Descriptions of the competencies associated with particular credentials are quite specific.
Consistency	Fair	While it is difficult to compare directly to other datasets, we can note that the coverage of certifications and licenses in the Registry is far more limited than coverage in the DOL Certification Finder and License Finder databases.
Timeliness	Good	Data is released regularly, though institutions can delay providing updates.
Integrity	Excellent	We did not identify any risks to data integrity.
Accessibility	Fair	While researchers should be able to access microdata, the procedure for data access is not published.
Interoperability	Fair	Linkages could be made to other data sources on particular credentials such as IPEDS and TrainingProviderResults.gov, but the value in such linkages is unclear since the registry's coverage is limited.
Suitability for Longitudinal Research	Good	Some data goes back to 2017.
Overall Recommendation	Fair	While the dataset has promise if it expands in the future, at this time its coverage is too limited to enable nationally-representative analyses.

### Relevance to Use Cases

Use Case	Rating	Summary Explanation
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Analyze the Overall Prevalence of NDCs	Fair	Since coverage is limited and participants are self-selected, the registry itself does not lend itself to analyzing the overall prevalence of credentials.
Identify Which NDCs are Associated with Highest Earnings	Fair	Through linkages with external data, it may be possible to identify which competencies are associated with labor market returns.
Identify Patterns of Inequality in NDC Attainment	Fair	Since data is at the credential level, one would need to establish linkages with external datasets to identify patterns of inequality.
Enrichment of NTEWS Microdata	Fair	It is possible in theory to import data on the competencies that NTEWS respondents who hold credentials listed in the Registry should have.