



# DEAC and Credential Engine Bring Transparency to Quality in Distance Education

**May 25, 2021 (Washington, D.C.)**—The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) and national nonprofit Credential Engine are working to help learners, workers, employers, and educators better understand the characteristics of high-quality distance education. Given the rise of online education, high quality distance education institutions and programs need to be able to differentiate themselves in the market and highlight the importance of their DEAC accreditation.

“By having DEAC accreditation, institutions offer many assurances to learners, job-seekers, and employers about the quality of learning. Through this partnership with Credential Engine, our institutions can make these assurances even more transparent to the general public. Everyone will be able to better understand what to expect, the skills they will acquire, and the job opportunities different credentials lead to,” says Leah K. Matthews, Executive Director of DEAC.

Credential Engine provides a suite of freely available web-based services that house information about all types of credentials, including their associated competencies, credential providers, and quality assurance. All credential data are added to the open Credential Registry—a cloud-based repository that collects, maintains, and connects information on all types of credentials (from diplomas, certificates, and apprenticeships to certifications, licenses, and degrees of all types and levels).

“Now, more than ever, people rely on transparent, timely, and reliable information to aid in decision-making. There’s just too much on the line for people to meander through learning and workforce opportunities. Adding quality assurance information into the Credential Registry will make institutions more visible and accessible to stakeholders, providing a mutual benefit for people and the institutions themselves,” says Scott Cheney, CEO of Credential Engine.

DEAC is working with their accredited institutions to publish data in the Credential Registry. These institutions are using the Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL)—a common language to describe and understand credentials—to add their credential data into the Registry. The pilots will follow the [Credential Engine Benchmark Models for Publishing](#) for rich types of data, as well as adding quality assurance information to make their institutions more visible and accessible to all stakeholders. Publishing their rich data to the Credential Registry will allow for more transparency to learners, workers, employers, and educators to have a better understanding of what to expect, skills acquired, credential connections, and job opportunities to make informed decisions. A recent [webinar](#) detailed the user-friendly publishing process DEAC institutions will follow to publish data to the Credential Registry. DEAC and their accredited institutions are leading the way in transparency about quality in distance education.

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**About DEAC:** The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) is a private, non-profit organization that operates as an accreditor of institutions that primarily offer distance education. Founded in 1926, the DEAC holds recognition by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Accreditation by DEAC covers all distance education activities within an institution and it provides a single source of nationally recognized accreditation from the primary school level through professional doctoral degree-granting institutions. DEAC works to assure students high quality distance education through accreditation, peer review, and institutional improvement. Learn more at [www.deac.org](http://www.deac.org).

**About Credential Engine:** Credential Engine is a non-profit whose mission is to map the credential landscape with clear and consistent information, fueling the creation of resources that empower people to find the pathways that are best for them. Learn more at [www.credentialengine.org](http://www.credentialengine.org).



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