US DOD Streamlined Path to INCOSE Certification

The INCOSE Certification Program has recently begun to recognize academic programs as an alternative to the INCOSE knowledge exam. Both are ways for individuals to prove their systems engineering knowledge. The US Department of Defense’s (DOD) Acquisition Workforce Certification Program performs many functions similar to those INCOSE performs in assessing candidates’ qualifications for INCOSE Certification. After careful review and discussion, the INCOSE Certification Program has identified the following streamlined path from DOD acquisition workforce certification to INCOSE Certification.

Individuals who have earned a Level II or Level III DoD acquisition workforce certification in the Engineering (ENG) career field (previously called SPRDE) have a streamlined path to INCOSE Systems Engineering Certification at the ASEP and CSEP levels.

If you have Level II DOD ENG Certification

Those with Level II DOD ENG Certification may bypass the INCOSE knowledge exam with proof of their certification. Since the knowledge exam is the only technical requirement for ASEP, qualifying individuals will only have to become INCOSE individual members and complete the ASEP application Form 1A (including application fee) to become ASEPs. They may also apply those knowledge exam results toward earning CSEP, using Form 1. They should also email the INCOSE Certification office at certification@incose.org to share their DOD certification details.

If you have Level III DOD ENG Certification

Those with Level III DOD ENG Certification may bypass the INCOSE knowledge exam to become an ASEP or CSEP. They do not need to document their qualifying degree, a standard CSEP requirement, as DOD has already confirmed that. The remaining technical requirements – for experience documentation and references – will be addressed in Form 1B, replacing forms 1 (individual application) and 4b (reference). All INCOSE forms are posted here. [hyperlink to https://www.incose.org/systems-engineering-certification/certification-forms] They only have to write a single narrative description of their work experience and get that signed by their current
supervisor, with no additional references required. They will submit this application, proof of DAU certification, and the CSEP application fee, along with being INCOSE individual members, to become CSEPs.

Verification of DOD Certification

INCOSE will reach out to DOD to confirm candidates’ ENG Certification. You will be asked to provide some personal information in order to look up that DOD credential.

Get Started

To apply for INCOSE ASEP or CSEP, individuals should first join INCOSE, then log in to their accounts at [www.incose.org](http://www.incose.org) and go to their Profile Home. On the bottom right of that page, they’ll have the option to apply for certification. Clicking through there will show them where to upload the completed form 1A (ASEP), 1B (Level III submitting for CSEP), or standard form 1 (Level II submitting for CSEP). If they receive an email with exam eligibility ID, they should respond to that by explaining that they have a DOD Engineering Certification.