**MOS Proponent Funded**

**WHAT IS THE IDC PROGRAM?**A credential (in the form of a certification or license) that relates to the Soldier's MOS/ASI/FA directly supporting the improvement of the Soldier's readiness and their overall capability and capacity, which is either completely taught or partially taught on-duty during initial military, functional, and development training. In some circumstances, Soldiers may complete the remainder of the credentialing training/exam at their follow-on duty assignment while either on or off duty. It is important to note that only those credentials sponsored by an Army TRADOC school are offered through the IDC program. These credentials have been identified as providing the most value to the Soldier for professional development in their military MOS while still in the Army.

**WHY SHOULD A SOLDIER PURSUE AN MOS-RELATED CREDENTIAL THROUGH THE IDC PROGRAM?**IDC credentials allow the Soldier to combine military experience in their Army job with a nationally recognized credential in the same field. MOS-related credentials overlap with content already being taught in professional military schools. This overlap provides credit towards credential exam preparation which decreases the time needed to complete the credential, increases knowledge skills and behaviors associated with the Army job, and allows the branch to recommend the best time for a Soldier to pursue a given credential.

**HOW DOES A SOLDIER FIND A PROPONENT-FUNDED IDC CREDENTIAL ON COOL?**
Look for the symbol next to a credential that looks like a building with a dollar sign. The column header above the symbol will say proponent funded. Proponent funded credentials are fully funded by the Army at no cost to the Soldier and do not take away from any other benefits.

**CAN AN MOS-RELATED CREDENTIAL BE OFFERED AND FUNDED BY THE PROPONENT IF THE CREDENTIAL IS NOT LISTED ON ARMY COOL?**
Yes if the credential vendor complies with DOD Credential Standards. This must be part of the memorandum of agreement between the proponent and the vendor. Army COOL is recognized as providing a repository of vetted credentials but is not an all-inclusive list. Each year, proponent schools participate in a 45-day event to update credential lists on Army COOL to ensure the latest MOS-related credentials are publicly available for Soldiers to see.

**IS INFORMATION ABOUT THE IDC PROGRAM AVAILABLE THROUGH EDUCATION GUIDANCE COUNSELORS?**No. The IDC program is considered an on-duty professional development program that offers third party accredited credentials (certifications and licenses) that meet an industry standard or legal requirement. IDC credentials are not considered an education product as they are time bound and require recertification on a recurring basis. Intent of the IDC program is to increase Soldier professionalism while the Soldier is in the Army and increase civilian equivalent job opportunities in the same job family once the Soldier leaves the service.

**WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE IDC PROGRAM? (RANK, COMPO)**IDC credentials are available to enlisted, warrant officers, and officers in all three components (Active Army, Army National Guard, US Army Reserves).

WILL PURSUIT OF AN MOS-RELATED CREDENTIAL THROUGH THE IDC PROGRAM COUNT AGAINST OTHER BENEFITS?
No. MOS-related credentials in the IDC program are fully funded through special training dollars that are completely separate from other programs such as tuition assistance or the GI Bill.

**DOES THE SOLDIER HAVE TO PURSUE AN MOS-RELATED IDC CREDENTIAL WHILE OFF DUTY?**
All IDC credentials are initiated while the Soldier is On-Duty, which means at least part of the credential is taught in conjunction with attendance at a military school. Some credentials are 100% completed and awarded while on duty. Others require an additional study period and/or hands-on experience component after the Soldier returns to the Operational force and is completed either on or off duty. In most cases, at least 70% of the credential exam requirements are being covered in Army Course curriculum that the Soldier is already learning from Army course attendance and through achieving lesson plan learning objectives.

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**CAN A SOLDIER BE REIMBURSED FOR A COURSE/EXAM/TRAINING/BOOKS FOR WHICH THE SOLDIER ALREADY PAID?**
Yes. If the Soldier has an agreement with the sponsoring school and the credential requires an additional study period and/or hands on experience element post-school. In these cases, the Soldier will often pay for the exam out of pocket and submit exam results and receipts to the sponsoring school for reimbursement. This is the case for the A&P credential awarded to Aviation Soldiers, for example.

**ONCE A CREDENTIAL IS EARNED THROUGH THE IDC PROGRAM, WILL THE PROGRAM PAY FOR RECERTIFICATION COSTS?**
Yes, the IDC program will pay for recertification fees for the entire time the Soldier is in the service. Soldiers will need to coordinate these expenses with the Branch school where the credential was first sponsored and earned.

**IS THERE A LIMIT TO THE AMOUNT OF IDC FUNDING A SOLDIER CAN USE?**
Yes. The maximum funding for credentialing examinations and licensing fees for each Soldier is $800 a fiscal year. Waiver of this provision must be endorsed by the proponent school of the related MOS and approved by the Commander of the Soldier's Army Command, Army Service Component Command or Direct Reporting Unit.

**WHAT TYPES OF CREDENTIALS ARE INELIGIBLE FOR IDC FUNDING?**
Preparatory classes for college or graduate admissions testing such as the Scholastic Assessment Test, Graduate Record Examination, or Law School Aptitude Test. Required credentials for an MOS, as the funds for these credentials are accounted for through the Army School System. Career Skills Programs. Professional credentials, to include renewals, that are a prerequisite for appointment in the Armed Forces. Apprenticeships, Internships or Externships.

**HOW DOES A SOLDIER APPLY FOR IDC CREDENTIALS?**By Army Directive, all Army training institutions must make information about civilian credentialing opportunities available to Soldiers during every stage of MOS training, starting with advanced individual training. As such, Soldiers will be provided information on MOS-related IDC available credentials during resident attendance at a Branch school. The sponsoring school will provide the Soldier with all necessary application procedures, study materials, textbooks, and exam vouchers as required. In some cases, the entire attending class may take a proctored certification or license exam while still at the resident course. In these cases, Soldiers may be awarded the credential before departing the resident course. For example, every Soldier attending 91B Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic AIT will be offered a chance to complete a certification through the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence prior to AIT graduation.

**HOW LONG DOES A SOLDIER HAVE TO COMPLETE A CREDENTIAL EXAM ONCE THE CREDENTIAL ATTEMPT BEGINS?**It depends on the complexity of the credential requirements. Sponsoring TRADOC schools will have established agreements between the school and the Soldier to ensure the exam results are reported within an appropriate time frame. There is no one-size fits all time frame as some credentials such as the A&P credential for Aviation Soldiers includes a 36 month hands-on experience requirement as a prerequisite prior to exam attempt. Soldiers who fail to report the results of a credential exam within the time limits set by the sponsoring school are subject to recoupment of the cost of the exam per DODI 1322-33.

**WHAT ACTIONS MUST A SOLDIER TAKE AFTER RECEIVING CREDENTIAL EXAM RESULTS?**
If the exam is taken while the Soldier is still at the sponsoring resident course, the Branch school will ensure exam results are annotated and recorded on the Soldiers record. In cases where the exam is taken after the Soldier departs the sponsoring school, it is the Soldier's responsibility to provide those exam results to the sponsoring school.

**WILL RECEIPT OF AN MOS-RELATED PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL HELP A SOLDIER'S CAREER?**
Yes. In accordance with AR 600-8-19, Enlisted Promotions and Reductions, "Ten promotion points are granted for each TRADOC-approved technical, industry, and/or professional certification earned, not to exceed award for five certifications or 50 promotion points. Recertification will not result in duplicate award of promotion points. Technical certifications will remain on Soldiers promotion point worksheet until the certification expires even if it is no longer listed on the TRADOC approved list if it previously awarded points.