



YOUR STEP-BY-STEP PATHWAY TO CWE

BECOMING AN AWS CERTIFIED WELDING EDUCATOR

You've spent time in the booth, on the line, and in the field—and now you're ready to pass that knowledge on. As a **Certified Welding Educator (CWE)**, you're not just teaching welding—you're shaping the future of the industry, one student at a time. Whether you're in a classroom, training facility, or shop floor, the CWE credential tells your students—and your institution—that you've got the knowledge, skill, and abilities to teach welding the right way.

WHY THE CWE CREDENTIAL MATTERS

The CWE recognizes your ability to guide others through the fundamentals. You've already struck the arc between doing and teaching—this credential backs you up with formal recognition. It's ideal for welding instructors at high schools or colleges, training managers in industry, and apprenticeship program instructors alike. With your CWE credential in hand, you'll be well-positioned to meet the credentialing requirements of many schools and training programs, gain recognition for your instructional experience, join a professional network of AWS-certified educators, and play a vital role in closing the skilled labor gap.



1 CONFIRM YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify for the Certified Welding Educator program, candidates must meet the following criteria:

Educational Requirements

- High school diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Completion of a welding training program or equivalent education

Work Experience Requirements

Candidates also need a minimum of five years' experience in a role related to welding codes or standards such as:

- Production:** Planning and control of welding materials, procedures, and operations
- Construction:** Experience in welding, fabrication, and erection of weldments
- Inspection:** Expertise in detecting and measuring weld discontinuities and verifying fabrication requirements
- Repair:** Experience in repairing defective welds



1

CONFIRM YOUR QUALIFICATIONS (CONT.)

Instructor Credentials (Required in PDF)

CWE applicants must complete and submit the CWE Instructor Credentials form with this application.



2

COMPLETE THE CWE EXAM APPLICATION

Fill out the CWE Exam Application on my.aws.org. Have the following documentation ready to upload:

- Education:** Candidates must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Work Experience:** Candidates must provide proof of at least five years' experience in welding codes or standards, such as in production, construction, inspection, or repair roles.
- Instructor Credentials (Required in PDF)** – CWE applicants must complete and submit the CWE Instructor Credentials form with this application.
- Welder Certification or Test Record (Required in PDF)** – Applicants for the AWS Certified Welding Educator certification must have and submit a copy of a valid welder ID/certification card or shall pass a valid welder exam
- Provide a recent passport-style photo



3

SUBMIT AND PAY

- Submit your completed application at least 6 weeks before your requested approval date.
- Fees (as of 2025): \$885 for **AWS Members** || \$1,150 for **Non-Members**
 - Pro tip: Membership often pays for itself in certification savings.*
- Once your application is processed and approved, a Confirmation Letter will be sent containing examination details.



4

PASS TWO WELDING EXAMS

The CWE requires passing the following two exams for certification:

- Part A – Fundamentals:**
A 150-question written exam covering welding safety, destructive testing, welding symbols, metallurgy, and more.
- Part B – Practical:**
A hands-on exam that assesses your ability to interpret WPSs and PQRs, use inspection tools, and evaluate weld samples.

60%

Passing Score
for Each Part





STAYING CREDENTIALALED: RENEWING YOUR CWE

Your CWE is valid for 4 years. To renew your credential:

- Submit a **CWE renewal form**
- Affirm two years of activity** in welding education or related activities, as defined in AWS QC5, during your certification period
- No exams or PDHs required
- Keep your teaching experience current to make renewal easy.*



NOTES



**READY TO GET STARTED?
LEARN MORE ABOUT CWE ENDORSEMENT**