



# YOUR STEP-BY-STEP PATHWAY TO CWS

The **Certified Welding Supervisor (CWS)** credential is designed for professionals responsible for improving welding operations, maximizing productivity, and ensuring quality and safety on the shop floor. If you're looking to strengthen your qualifications and support your team from a leadership position, here's how to earn your CWS.

## 1 MEET THE WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

To apply for the CWS credential, you'll need relevant work experience in a supervisory role within a welding environment.

You must have the following:

### Educational Requirements

- ☐ A high school diploma or GED and Welding-related training or coursework preferred but not required.

### Work Experience Requirements

- ☐ A minimum of 3 years of welding experience with a high school diploma
- ☐ A minimum of 2 years of welding supervision experience preferred
- ☐ Practical knowledge of welding processes, quality control, and industry codes
  - As an alternative, three years of relevant teaching experience may be substituted for one year of the practical experience requirement.

- ! *Experience must include a direct relationship with weldments fabricated to a code, specification, or other standard, and is directly involved in at least one of the following: Design, Production, Construction, Inspection, and Repair.*



## 2 STUDY THE CWS BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

AWS recommends reviewing the CWS Body of Knowledge to understand what's covered on the exam. It includes topics such as:

- Welding Preparation and Fabrication
- Quality Management and Quality Control Requirements
- Personnel Management
- ! Download the [CWS Examination Guide](#) from the AWS website to start preparing.





## TAKE THE AWS SEMINAR

(Optional, but Helpful)

AWS offers a [CWS online seminar](#) and a [CWS in-person seminar](#) that walks you through the technical and leadership-focused content of the exam. While it's not mandatory, this seminar is highly recommended—especially if it's been a while since you've studied topics like cost estimation, QA/QC, or production planning.



## APPLY FOR THE EXAM

Once you meet the eligibility requirements and feel ready, submit your application through your [my.aws.org](#) account.


You'll need to:

- ☐ Choose your preferred test date and location
- ☐ Upload documentation of your education and work experience
- ☐ Pay the exam fee



## TAKE AND PASS THE CWS EXAM

The full CWS exam includes two parts:

- ☐ **Part A:** Fundamentals of Welding Supervision
- ☐ **Part B:** Welding Practices & Economics
- ☒ The exam is open-book and proctored at Prometric testing centers.
-  *Pro tip: Time management is key. Be familiar with your reference materials before test day so you can quickly find the information you need.*

**70%**  
Passing Score  
for Each Part



## GET CERTIFIED

If you pass the exam and meet all qualifications, you'll be awarded the Certified Welding Supervisor credential. You'll receive your Certificate, certification card and digital badge from AWS, and your name will be added to the AWS Certified Welding Supervisor directory.



**READY TO GET STARTED?  
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CERTIFIED  
WELDING SUPERVISOR (CWS) PROGRAM**