



Registered Apprenticeship-College Consortium Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the RACC?

The Registered Apprenticeship-College Consortium is composed of employers, labor-management groups and associations that have Registered Apprenticeship programs (known as sponsors) and two- and four- year postsecondary institutions. Membership also includes state, regional and national organizations that represent sponsors and colleges. RACC members agree to accept the college credit value of the Registered Apprenticeship completion certificate as recommended by a recognized third party evaluator for purposes of facilitating the transfer of credit between Consortium member colleges. The consortium is run by the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Education. Currently, there are thousands of existing articulation agreements between a single college and local Registered Apprenticeship program. The consortium will create a national network of colleges and Registered Apprenticeship sponsors allowing apprenticeship graduates to attend and complete their postsecondary degrees at member colleges.

What's the cost?

Membership is free. There is no cost to join the RACC. Members agree to abide by the **RACC Framework** that outlines goals, principles and criteria for membership and the **RACC Standards of Good Practice** also found on the website, www.doleta.gov/oa/racc

Why should postsecondary institutions and Registered Apprenticeship sponsors join?

- To strengthen relationships among Registered Apprenticeship and two- and four-year post-secondary institutions nationwide. The two systems are complimentary—the educational component is delivered by postsecondary institutions while Registered Apprenticeship focuses on workplace learning. There are already thousands of articulation agreements among Registered Apprenticeship and postsecondary institutions. The consortium will build on those partnerships.
- To facilitate the development of informed partnerships among Registered Apprenticeship and two- and four-year post-secondary institution stakeholders that recognizes the resources, limits, and requirements of one another's systems.

Specifically for postsecondary institutions

- Membership will open a new pipeline of highly motivated degree seekers. All individuals who complete a Registered Apprenticeship program have already been through a structured and rigorous program to learn a skilled trade. They will be very likely to complete a degree program.
- Be part of a national network of postsecondary institutions that recognize the value and potential of Registered Apprenticeship as an important national certificate and rigorous prior learning.

Specifically for Registered Apprenticeship sponsors

- Membership will provide recognition to Registered Apprenticeship programs as rigorous postsecondary education that provides college-level credit.
- Enhance national understanding of and responses to the needs of apprentices as another working student population and advance the flexibility needed to enable apprentices to earn college credit for their Registered Apprenticeship experience and pursue further credentials in post-secondary educational programs, as well as utilize transfer opportunities to institutions that offer Bachelor's degrees.

Why must Registered Apprenticeship programs to go through a third party evaluation to join the RACC?

All RA sponsor RACC members must have their programs evaluated by a third party organization to determine the college credit value of the apprenticeship completion certificate. The evaluation assesses the college-level equivalency of the program. Many organizations use third party evaluators to assess training and education programs offered outside of the traditional college classroom setting and translate them into college credit equivalencies. The following organizations are acceptable as Third Party Evaluators.

- American Council on Education (ACE), an organization that represents presidents and chancellors of all types of U.S. accredited, degree-granting institutions;
- National College Credit Recommendation Service (NCCRS), established by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York to create a college advisory service; and
- Two- and four-year postsecondary institutions that provide academic program reviews with evaluation standards similar to ACE and NCCRS as acceptable Third party Evaluators. The Departments of Labor and Education will disseminate descriptive

information on current and new third party evaluators for purposes of RACC membership.

How do I join?

Joining the RACC is a click away through the streamlined application process, available on the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship homepage, www.doleta.gov/oa. Look for the three applications for “Postsecondary,” “Sponsor,” and “Other Organization.” For further information and to discuss any questions, please call 202/693-2796 or send an e-mail to OA.Administrator@dol.gov. To learn more about the “Earn and Learn” Registered Apprenticeship model and existing programs in a wide variety of industries, visit <https://21stcenturyapprenticeship.workforce3one.org/%2findex.aspx>