

Boost your credit career by earning your CCE

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Earning the [Certified Credit Executive \(CCE\)](#) designation, the highest level of credit expertise, through NACM's [Professional Certification Program](#) signals a credit professional's dedication to the field. The CCE is earned through a combination of education, credit experience and professional development.

Why it matters: The CCE designation is a valuable distinction known throughout the field as reflection of a credit professional's dedication to deepening their understanding of business credit and improving themselves.

"Throughout my career I have noticed my fellow credit professionals who have earned their CCE designation often stood out in their credit departments, such as a credit manager, director of credit, vice-president of credit or chief credit officer," said George Schnupp, CCE, instructor for NACM. "It shows employers that the credit professional is well-qualified, motivated and prepared to tackle strategic decision-making responsibilities."

When finding a new position, having the designation next to your name will help you stand out immediately in applicant pools. "Having my CCE designation definitely helped me when I was looking for a position in credit," said Staci Cima, CCE, director of credit for Springfield Electric Supply Company (Saint Louis, MO). "When I first transitioned into the field, it was really important for me to get my CCE because I wanted to be an expert in the field. Even in my day-to-day work when I am having conversations with managers or the board of directors, it helps to be able to show that I have the experience and education to be seen as a trusted resource."

No two paths to the CCE designation are the same, with three distinct routes to the exam based around credit experience, previous education and involvement with NACM. "What's nice about the process of earning your CCE is that you can find a path that fits you best," Cima said. "It's inclusive so there is a path for every person to get their designation. No matter what your journey has been or where you are in your career, you can always pursue your CCE."

Earning your CCE not only furthers your professional development but strengthens your bonds within the credit community. "Connecting with other designee seekers along the way was incredibly encouraging and reminded me that growth is often fueled by shared experiences and mutual support," said Whitney Styer, CCE, CCRA, assistant credit manager for Helena Agri-Enterprises (Collierville, TN). "To anyone considering pursuing the CCE, I would wholeheartedly encourage you to go for it, knowing that the effort you invest will come back to you in confidence and professional pride."

The bottom line: Diving deeper into the world of business credit and risk management as you work towards your CCE allows you to emerge from the experience confident in your approach to credit management.

"The CCE is a statement of leadership, ethics, strategic capability and credibility – not just technical expertise," Schnupp said. "The designation is a differentiator and it shows you're operating and functioning at the executive level. The CCE designation lets your organization know you're ready for the next step in your career."

