

About Knowledge Management Certification



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What Is Certification?

What is Certification? A professional certification, trade certification, or professional designation (often called simply certification or qualification) is a designation earned by a person to assure that he/she is qualified to perform a job or task. Many certifications are used as post-nominal letters indicating an earned privilege from an oversight professional body acting to safeguard the public interest. [1]

Certifications are earned from a professional society. The growth of certification programs is also a reaction to the changing employment market. Certifications are portable, since they do not depend on one company's definition of a certain job. Certification stands about the resume and the professional reference by being an impartial, third-party endorsement of an individual's professional knowledge and experience. Certification provides an impartial, third-party endorsement of an individual's professional knowledge and experience. [1]

Listed by increased development and portability levels, those types of certifications are [2]:

Type 1 Certification: Corporate/Internal Certifications - this certification has "limited portability" and "it is the most simple to develop."

Type 2 Certification: Product Specific Certifications - this certification is used extensively "in the information technology (IT) industry, where personnel are certified on a version of software or hardware" and portability is limited to those that use that software.

Type 3 Certification: Profession-Wide - this professional certification is offered by a professional society and is "portable to all places a certified professional might work."

KMPro offers Type 3 Certifications which are professional certifications that are recognized profession- and industry-wide. [2]

Benefits of Certification

Employers find certifications useful in validating and providing a means to specify the skills they need. "The growth of certification programs is also a reaction to the changing employment market. Certifications are portable, since they do not depend on one company's definition of a certain job. Certification stands about the resume and the professional reference by being an impartial, third-party endorsement of an individual's professional knowledge and experience. Certification provides the documented 'track record' many employers want." [3]

"What Does Certification Demonstrate? A person must have the right knowledge to do a job. College degrees and job training used to fill this role, but are now considered little more than basic, entry-level prerequisites. Universities may teach, but they may not teach the 'right stuff.' College course rarely fit neatly into job elements. Knowledge requirements are based on academic opinion, not the current reality of the workplace." [3]

In short, “university degrees no longer represent, if they ever did, the ultimate measure of professional knowledge and capability” while a certification “more closely reflects an individual's capacity to perform” and a certification provided by a professional society “more closely reflects an individual's capacity to perform” in the workplace. [3]

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About Knowledge Management Certification

Knowledge Management (KM) Certification, like any other form of professional certification, is “earned from a Professional society” [1] which is defined as a “professional association (also called a professional body, professional organization, or professional society) that is a non-profit organization seeking to further a particular profession, the interests of individuals engaged in that profession, and the public interest.” [4] And a non-profit organization is one which “does not distribute its surplus funds to owners or shareholders.” [5]

KMPro views certification as a continuation of our mission to promote the Knowledge Management profession. The KMPro CKM certification is intended to ensure that an individual gains a baseline level of knowledge with regard to knowledge management, and that they are able to understand how to apply Strategic Knowledge Management concepts to ensure successful KM implementation that sustains organizational performance.

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References:

1. [Professional Certification](#)
2. [Types of Certifications](#)
3. Phillip Barnhart, The Guide to National Professional Certification Programs (1995, 1997, 2001), HRD Press.
4. [Professional Society](#)
5. [Non-Profit Organization](#)

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