**Occupational license database**

**About this dataset**: Occupational license data are collected from each U.S. state and territory and combined with additional data from federal agencies, data are also gathered through the scraping of websites by the Analyst Resource Center (ARC) and available for download on CareerOneStop via the License Finder (<https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/find-licenses.aspx>.) Occupational licenses are required to practice many different occupations, however, the specific occupations that are licensed, and the requirements for each occupation, may differ from one state to another. In order for a credential to be considered a license it must meet the following criteria per BLS.gov:

License

* + Credential awarded by a governmental licensing agency based on pre-determined criteria
	+ The criteria may include some combination of degree attainment, certifications, educational certificates, assessments (including state-administered exams), apprenticeship programs, or work experience
	+ Conveys a legal authority to work in an occupation
	+ Examples: cosmetology licenses and teacher’s licenses

For more information go to: <https://www.bls.gov/cps/certifications-and-licenses-faqs.htm#whatare>

**Data format types:**

Data are available for download in Microsoft Access in two different file types, relational and flat. The flat file contains all available information in one table but because many licenses are coded to multiple O\*NET codes there are duplicates. Microsoft Access is the recommended program to use because when exporting data in other formats, such as Microsoft Excel, the length of the description fields may cause formatting issues.

**Data notes:**

Data on occupational licenses is submitted by states and data quality and interpretation of definitions has historically varied from state to state.  While central clean-up does occur (including standardizing occupational coding, adding likely licenses, and ensuring consistent structure) submissions are made on a rolling basis and inconsistencies may persist in certain states’ data.

The indicator fields (inactive, certification, continuingedu, criminal, education, exam, experience, licensetype, physical) have not yet been included in state submissions.  Instead, they were obtained by other methods.  First, they were run through a text parsing process to see if the license description submitted by the state could determine an appropriate value.  Second, if the text parsing of the description did not yield a result, data from other sources (Center for State Occupational Regulation (CSOR), License2Work, and National Center for State Legislatures (NCSL)) was used to populate it.  These sources each focused on a subset of occupations and were not comprehensive for any variable, and because they all looked for whether and how an occupation was licensed rather than starting with the licensing structure some of the tiered licenses (trainee or journeyman) may draw their indicator from a different level of the license.

None of the above alternate sources discussed veteran preference specifically, so a separate source (The Military Spouse Portability Examination Report out of University of Minnesota, November 2017 [https://reachfamilies.umn.edu/sites/default/files/Reports/Complete\_Report\_8-18.pdf](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Freachfamilies.umn.edu%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2FReports%2FComplete_Report_8-18.pdf&data=02%7C01%7Cthomas.arntsen%40state.mn.us%7C5960e1df6585429f0c8608d7ab4e2b1d%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637166224520997765&sdata=4irA7dOizUTlC%2BYqgYbLwou6Fxe2EACaoz43DXsXpHc%3D&reserved=0)) was used instead.

Some data is not submitted by states but rather collected centrally.  Data related to license compacts was obtained via internet search and is updated on an as-needed basis.  Data related to industry is identified based on license description and details.  When no industry is specified, it’s assumed that the occupation requires a license across all industries.

**What is included**: This dataset includes fields that describe license title, authorizing organization, description of licenses, and related O\*NET codes.

**Data fields, values and descriptions**: <http://www.widcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/WID28_DataDictionary-1.pdf#page=75>

**Data source**: This information is collected by the Analyst Resource Center (ARC): <http://www.widcenter.org/>; data collection began in 1997.

**Available formats**: Data are available for download in Microsoft Access.

**Update schedule:** States and territories are expected to submit revisions of their occupational license requirements every two years. The CareerOneStop License Finder is updated as new license data are received, typically every 4 months in March, July, and November.

**Access the data**:

License Finder: <https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-licenses.aspx>

Data download: <https://www.careeronestop.org/Developers/Data/data-downloads.aspx>

API: [https://www.careeronestop.org/Developers/WebAPI/web-api.aspx](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.careeronestop.org%2FDevelopers%2FWebAPI%2Fweb-api.aspx&data=02%7C01%7Cthomas.arntsen%40state.mn.us%7Cb1797f7a037b4a8ddc1a08d6cda53abe%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C1%7C636922506879925573&sdata=RBBv%2BrwMZHwoZv0SUl0mdl19RpuYKYWfmKAj1pJ1ox8%3D&reserved=0)