

Marketable postsecondary degree means a Registered Apprenticeship, credential, license, associate degree, bachelor's degree or a graduate level certification/advanced degree. These degrees demonstrate academic achievement, commitment, and the development of critical and versatile skills such as communication, problem-solving, and analytical thinking that are applicable to a wide range of career paths. A degree is considered unmarketable when:

A) The applicant can show that the credential prepared them for a specific occupation that they are no longer able to perform due to physical or mental health limitations; or

B) The postsecondary degree is not recognized by or equivalent to that which is required by the appropriate professional licensing body in this State; or

C) The applicant can show that the postsecondary degree does not enable the applicant to obtain employment in a labor market that meets the requirements of subsection 4, paragraph A [PL 2025, c. 396, §3 (NEW).]; or

D) A degree that is oriented toward an occupation absent from the local labor market may be considered unmarketable when the applicant demonstrates that the credential lacks transferable skills applicable to other viable employment options.

E) The applicant can show that the associate degree or certification does not provide preparation for direct entry into a specific occupation or career field. Examples include general or exploratory programs such as Liberal Arts, Liberal Studies, General Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, and similar programs that are primarily preparatory in nature and intended to support transfer, future specialization, or admission into another program of study rather than immediate employment. All bachelor's degrees and higher-level degrees are considered marketable.