

# GEER UP NEWSLETTER



YOU DIDNT COME THIS  
FAR TO ONLY COME  
THIS FAR

## THE GET CERTIFIED AND CONNECT ISSUE

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***Please note: That while the GEER program has ended, much of the information in this newsletter is helpful to anyone who wishes to get Certified or Licensed.***

### 01 ---- WELCOME! ----

GEER UP stands for Governor's Emergency Education Relief, Uplifting Professionals.  
Stay up to date with taking a class/classes, earning your certification or license, and making your next career move.

Earn your CERTIFICATION or LICENSE today!

## 02 ---- Certifying Organizations and Membership Benefits ----

Written by Sean Wright

No matter what class(es) you take through GEER you are being prepared to take a certification or licensing exam! As you take and finish your class(es) set up your strategy for preparing for and taking your exam. **Talk to GEER staff about how GEER can pay for it.** Each career area that is covered by classes in the GEER grant has it's own credential(s) and you need to get to know the organization that provides the certification or license you are seeking. Take time today to learn about the organization, the exam, study resources available, and explore membership and additional benefits beyond just taking your exam.

Many of these organizations have networking events, a library of resources surrounding certification and professional development, some have mentoring programs, and more. Once you identify the right organization take time to get to know what they offer that can support you launching and growing your career!

Below you will find links for most of the certifying organizations relevant to our GEER students. Also talk to your classmates and instructors to learn more about the the exam you will be taking and get advice on how to prepare. If you don't think you see the right organization for you below, then please email your Placement and Learning Advisor, Sean Wright, at [sean.wright@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:sean.wright@montgomerycollege.edu) and your instructor. The categories covered below include IT, Healthcare, Early Childhood Education, Project Management, Human Resources, Coaching, Real Estate, Home Improvement, Tax, Technical Trades, Transportation, and Cosmetology.

IT Certifying Organizations - There are multiple certifying organizations in IT, including, CompTIA, Python Institute, Amazon, and Microsoft.

- CompTIA certifications include: A+, ITF+, Net+, and Sec+. <https://www.comptia.org/certifications>
- Python Institute: PCEP – Certified Entry-Level Python Programmer. <https://pythoninstitute.org/pcep>
- Amazon Web Services: AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner, and AWS Certified Solutions Architect Associate. <https://aws.amazon.com/certification/>
- Microsoft: Microsoft Certified Power BI Data Analyst Associate. <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/certifications/power-bi-data-analyst-associate/>

## PRO JOB SEARCH TIP

**60% of jobs are found through networking – not online.**

-<https://www.topresume.com/career-advice/7-top-job-search-statistics>

There is great value in connecting with other professionals in your industry, and you can do this through certifying organizations and other networking groups. Look up the organization relevant to you below.

Also search for groups on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com).

<https://www.meetup.com/find/?source=GROUPS>

Healthcare Certifying Organizations – There are multiple certifying organizations in Healthcare, including, Maryland Board of Nursing, Pharmacy Technician Certification Board, and National Healthcareer Association.

- Nursing Assistant: CNA and GNA Certification. <https://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/nursing-assistant-certification.aspx>
- Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT). <https://www.ptcb.org/>
- Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT). [https://www.nhanow.com/certification/nha-certifications/certified-phlebotomy-technician-\(cpt\)](https://www.nhanow.com/certification/nha-certifications/certified-phlebotomy-technician-(cpt))
- Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA). [https://www.nhanow.com/certification/nha-certifications/certified-clinical-medical-assistant-\(ccma\)](https://www.nhanow.com/certification/nha-certifications/certified-clinical-medical-assistant-(ccma))
- EKG: Certified EKG Technician (CET). [https://www.nhanow.com/certification/nha-certifications/certified-ekg-technician-\(cet\)](https://www.nhanow.com/certification/nha-certifications/certified-ekg-technician-(cet))

Project Management – The Project Management Institute (PMI)

- CAPM: Certified Associate Project Manager. <https://www.pmi.org/certifications/certified-associate-capm>
- PMP: Project Management Professional. <https://www.pmi.org/certifications/project-management-pmp>

Human Resources – The Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM)

- SHRM Certified Professional (SHRM-CP). <https://www.shrm.org/certification/about/Pages/SHRM-CP.aspx>

Coaching – International Coach Federation (ICF)

- Associate Certified Coach (ACC). <https://coachingfederation.org/credentials-and-standards/credentials-paths/acc-credential>

Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) – The Institute of Internal Auditors

- CIA. <https://www.theiia.org/en/certifications/cia/>

Early Childhood Education – email your instructor and / or [sean.wright@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:sean.wright@montgomerycollege.edu)

- Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential
- MD Preschool Early Childhood Education Teacher
- MD Infants and Toddler
- Family Child Care Provider

Alternative Certification for Effective Teachers (ACET) – Maryland State Department of Education approved program.

- <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/abeess/school-of-education/alternative-certification-effective-teachers.html>
- <https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DEE/Program-Approval/MAAPP.aspx>

Transportation: CDL – Motor Vehicle Administration

- Commercial Driver License A & B. <https://mva.maryland.gov/drivers/Pages/cdl-commercial.aspx>

Real Estate – Maryland Real Estate Commission.

- Real Estate Sales Licensor. <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/mrec/>
- Real Estate Appraiser. <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/reahi/reahiapplyhi.shtml>

Home Improvement – Maryland Home Improvement Commission

- Home Improvement Contractor. <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/mhic/>
- Home Inspector. <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/reahi/reahiapplyhi.shtml>

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### **03 ---- RESOURCES RELATED TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ----**

Video:

- 5 Advantages of Professional Associations - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SBPT9gECVk>
- Ted Talk – An introvert’s guide to networking - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj98mr\\_wUA0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj98mr_wUA0)
- 30 Second Elevator Pitch - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lb0Yz\\_5ZYzI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lb0Yz_5ZYzI)

Articles:

- Build Your Network Using Professional Associations - <https://jobstars.com/how-to-build-your-network-using-professional-associations/>
- 5 ways professional associations can help you boost your career - <https://blog.careeronestop.org/5-ways-to-boost-your-career-via-a-professional-association/>

Networking Groups:

- Search MeetUp.com to find groups relevant to your career <https://www.meetup.com/find/?source=GROUPS>

**04 ---- CREDENTIALS EARNED ----****05 ---- CERTIFICATION STUDY GROUPS ----****06 ---- CAREER FAIRS & JOB OPPORTUNITIES ----** (clickable/tapable links)

- [Montgomery County Government Careers Page](#) – Search opportunities, learn how to apply
- [Recruitment Events and Job Fairs through Student Employment Services](#) at Montgomery College
- [Recruitment/Hiring Events & Job Search Workshops](#) are available for **free** through American Job

**Centers**

- Find your Job Center Here: <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/county/>  
Click on your county for more info!
- Calendar of Workshops & **Hiring Events** - [Montgomery County Residents](#) receive priority – Requires registration <https://worksourcemontgomery.com/calendar>