CERTIFIED LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPER (CLED) ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Effective Date: July 7, 2015

Experience

- A minimum of one year of experience as an economic development professional in Louisiana or elsewhere; or service on the board of directors of a Louisiana economic development group; OR
- A minimum of one year of service with a municipality, civic organization, government, or official committee where economic development is part of the overall strategy of the entity.

Education

A candidate must complete a total of six classes.

Four Required Courses:

1. Basic Economic Development Course (BEDC)*
2. Marketing & Business Attraction
3. Business Retention & Expansion
4. Real Estate Development & Reuse

* The BEDC course can be completed through the Certified Louisiana Economic Developer (CLED) curriculum or another International Economic Development Council (IEDC)-sanctioned BEDC.

Two Elective Courses:

Any course offered through the CLED program and deemed an “elective.”

Participants may simultaneously pursue the experience and education requirements.

Other Requirements

- A research/case study project and report is conducted after completion of all six program courses.
- A fee of $250 is required upon submission of application for certification.

Term of Certification

Certified Louisiana Economic Developers maintain their status for three years from the date of award. Thereafter, CLED professionals must apply for recertification and meet the minimum standards set forth by the certification committee every three years.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why does the state of Louisiana have its own Economic Development Certification process?

   Louisiana continues to make significant strides in its economic development initiatives. In order to support this growth, the citizenry and business community must understand what it takes to build and sustain a healthy and robust business environment in Louisiana. The more we understand the principles, unique processes, and common language used in economic development, the more rapidly we increase the opportunities for economic growth in the state. Having a program in Louisiana means easy and affordable access to learning for all.

2. Who should attend the classes?

   Each of the six classes presented are open to anyone who wishes to learn about economic development, regardless if you decide to pursue certification. Past attendees include economic developers, attorneys, accountants, engineers, construction managers, realtors, business developers, banking professionals, energy specialists, county/parish councils, government officials, and professionals from organizations who wish to better understand how local, regional, and national economic development affects their business.

3. May I register to attend any of the classes even though I may not pursue the certification?

   Anyone interested in learning about economic development may attend any and/or all of the classes. It is not mandatory that you pursue the certification.

4. If I complete all of the requirements for certification, what does this entitle me to?

   You are designated as a Certified Louisiana Economic Developer (CLED) for three years after the date of award by LED, LIDEA, and LSU SEI. You must recertify every three years in order to maintain the designation.

5. Do the courses in the CLED program count toward certification with the IEDC?

   The Basic Economic Development Course (BEDC) delivered through the CLED program is the only class in the Louisiana curriculum sanctioned by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). Upon completion of the BEDC, your name is submitted to the IEDC so that they have a record of your successful completion.

6. How do I become recertified?

   Certified Louisiana Economic Developers are eligible for recertification at the end of each three-year period by submitting an application for recertification to the LIDEA professional development committee.

   A total of 12 points must be earned to retain certification based on a variety of advanced learning and teaching opportunities.

 LSU Executive Education is pleased to present the Louisiana Economic Development Certification Program in conjunction with Louisiana Economic Development and the Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association.