CERTIFIED LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPER (CLED)
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Effective Date: October 24, 2012

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;
- 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 required classes.

1. Successful completion of the Basic Economic Development Course (BEDC) through the Louisiana Economic Development Certification Program (LA EDCP) curriculum or another International Economic Development Council (IEDC)-sanctioned BEDC.

2. Successful completion of five additional economic development (ED) courses. With the exception of the BEDC, the LA EDCP curriculum focuses on topics and issues germane to the state of Louisiana.

In addition to the BEDC course, one IEDC or CDI equivalent course may be submitted as part of the initial Louisiana Economic Development certification process. Proof of completion is required. No two courses may be duplicated.

- Three core courses:
  1. Marketing & Business Attraction
  2. Business Retention & Expansion
  3. Real Estate Development & Reuse

- Two electives:
  1. Strategic Planning for Economic Development
  2. Entrepreneurship & Technology Transfer
  3. Finance in Economic Development
  4. Leading and Managing the Economic Development Initiative
  5. Any other course offered through the LA EDCP program and deemed an “elective”

Participants may simultaneously pursue the experience and education requirements.
Other Requirements

- A research 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.

3. **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.
4. Do the courses in the LA EDCP count toward certification with the IEDC?

The Basic Economic Development Course (BEDC) delivered through the LA EDCP 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.

5. 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 certification board.

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