

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions about the CTMAA NIMS Credentials & Requirements

Q1: Do I have to complete these? Why?

Answer: Yes! Depending upon your Trade Skill (CNC, Manual, Mold, Tool & Die etc.) passing your NIMS online tests AND projects with 3rd party inspections is how CTMAA assures you are meeting DAS and DoL Apprenticeship Standards.

Q2: How are NIMS Credentials Earned?

Answer: All four NIMS Credentials require you to pass a 90 minute online exam. Typically there are three of NIMS Credentials require you to machine a part which is inspected by a 3rd Party. To earn each credential your part MUST pass inspection, and you MUST pass the exam. You will work with your apprentice coordinator and instructors to complete all required credentials during your apprenticeship.

Q3: How many NIMS Credentials do I have to earn?

Answer: 4-Year Apprenticeships require apprentices to earn 4 NIMS Credentials; one per year on average. 2-Year Apprenticeships require apprentices to earn 2 NIMS Credentials; one per year on average. The NIMS Credentials you will do depends on your machinist apprenticeship trade skill. See below.

Q4: Where do I perform my NIMS Credentials?

Answer: The 1st is done with your Apprentice Coordinator or their representative. Ideally the others are done at school. However, not all schools offer NIMS curriculums. The CTMAA encourages all school to support NIMS, but some do not due to staffing, enrollment and other reasons which prevent them.

In those cases you have OPTIONS:

OPTION 1: Ask your instructor how you can do your NIMS Project in his/her class. Maybe repeat a class if necessary to do your project.

OPTION 2: Ask your supervisor if you can do your NIMS Project at work using available shop equipment.

OPTION 3: Ask your Apprentice Coordinator to recommend another (Local) school that accommodates NIMS Projects.

Q5: WHICH Projects MUST I Complete?

Answer: Projects (and their RELATED online Tests) required of you are the following:
(The drawings for each project are at: <https://www.calmachinist.com/apprentice.html>)

All Apprentices (2 and 4-Year):

Measurement, Materials and Safety (Theory Only)

- To be completed with your Apprentice Coordinator during your 1st Blue Book.

4-Year Apprenticeships

Manual Machinist

... Machined on MANUAL MACHINES:

- **Job Planning Benchwork & Layout 2.1 & 2.2**
- Mill project 2.5/2.6 & Lathe project 2.4
Plus a 90 minute Proctored online exam each.

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CNC Machinist / Mold Maker ... CNC Projects or Choice 1 ea. CNC and Manual Project:

- Job Planning Benchwork & Layout
- CNC Mill 2.21/2.22 and/or CNC Lathe 2.11 or 2.22/2.23
May substitute Manual Mill or Lathe Project with permission
Plus a 90 minute Proctored online exam each.

Tool & Die Maker

- Job Planning Benchwork & Layout 2.1 & 2.2
- Mill project 2.5/2.6 or Lathe project 2.4 & CNC Mill 2.21/2.22
Plus a 90 minute Proctored online exam each.

Maintenance Machinist ... YOU MUST COMPLETE:

- Job Planning Benchwork & Layout 2.2 & 2.2
- Mill project 2.5/2.6 –and -- Lathe project 2.3 or 2.4
Plus a 90 minute Proctored online exam each.

Industrial Machinery Mechanic (Industrial Technology Maintenance (ITM) - Classic)

- Job Planning Benchwork & Layout (**Parts** Plus Exam)
- Mechanical Systems Specialist (Exam Only)
- Process Control Specialist (Exam Only)
Plus a 90 minute Proctored online exam each.

2-Year Apprenticeships

CNC Machinist Technician –

- Measurement Materials and Safety
- CNC Mill 2.21/2.22
Plus a 90 minute Proctored online exam each.

Quality Assurance Inspector

- Measurement Materials and Safety
- Inspector
Plus a 90 minute Proctored online exam each.

Q6:

Answer:

How to... or Why STUDY for the NIMS Tests?

Your Apprentice Coordinator will advise you on Exam prep. We strongly recommend you ask your Supervisor to obtain a copy of the **NIMS STUDY GUIDE** – it has the relevant Practice Tests for the Projects you choose to complete and it will save you having to take the test over. These are online, time-limited proctored tests, paid by CTMAA. All exam are coordinated and schedule through your Apprentice Coordinator.

NIMS Machining Level 1 Study Guide, Andrew J. Klein and Cengage Learning

The GUIDE costs \$27 on Amazon – you can share it –