



## What does it mean to meet ACRP National System Standards?

Meeting [ACRP Standards](#) means that a career product or service complies with standards adopted by the [Alliance of Career Resource Professionals \(ACRP\)](#). The ACRP Standards are organized into four levels: core, component, component integration, and comprehensive/national system. When a product meets **ACRP National System Standards**, the ACRP logo is displayed on this product, signifying that the product developer or provider has evaluated the product at ALL FOUR LEVELS and is asserting the product's compliance with these.

## What are the four levels of standards?

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION	APPLICATION OF STANDARDS
FIRST	<b>Core Standards</b>	all providers of information products and services for career development, irrespective of the tool, audience, or delivery mode.
SECOND	<b>Component Standards</b>	specific process components (assessment, search/sort, and career planning and management) or content components (occupational, industry, education and training, financial aid and job search information) that advance career development.
THIRD	<b>Component Integration Standards</b>	multi-component career information products and services in which components are interrelated.
FOURTH	<b>Comprehensive/National System Standards</b>	career information delivery systems that provide integrated career development processes linked to work-related and educational information for multiple audiences. Comprehensive/National systems are accountable to the public and provide user support and training.

## How do products achieve standards?

ACRP publishes checklists that developers and providers voluntarily apply to their products and services. The ACRP logo of compliance is an assertion by the developer or provider that the product or service meets standards in accordance with the document Meeting ACRP Standards. The developer or provider certifies compliance through submission of signed checklists for each level of standards met. Upon receipt of the signed checklist(s), ACRP provides an image that indicates the highest level of standards met. The developer or service provider may display the image in association with the particular product or service that meets ACRP standards. ACRP makes the signed checklist accessible to the public so that anyone can evaluate the product's or service's compliance with ACRP standards.

## **Why does ACRP develop standards?**

ACRP Standards serve the career information industry by providing challenging standards that influence the development and refinement of products and services. They create a vision of excellent and ethical practice in career information and service delivery. They support ACRP's mission of providing leadership that strengthens national, state, and local systems of computer-based information and related career development products and services. ACRP Standards ultimately benefit thousands of students, parents, employment seekers, counselors, teachers, and many others involved in the enterprise of career development.