



## What is a Credential?

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Merriam-Webster states the Simple Definition of CREDENTIAL as:

- A quality, skill, or experience that makes a person suited to do a job.
- A document which shows that a person is qualified to do a particular job.

In order to provide personal protective services, individuals should research the laws and regulations for the location they wish to work. Almost every state in the U.S. requires some form of Credential or License, with Virginia and Texas being the only two that require additional credentialing to perform Executive/Close Protection Services.

The Executive Protection Institute certifies all graduates of our Providing Executive Protection Program as Personal Protection Specialists. This certification from EPI has an outstanding reputation and is recognized worldwide.

Executive Protection Institute in Partnership with the UK-based Professional Bodyguard Association (PBA), offer Credential Programs that are Certified by Regulatory Agencies. Upon graduation of our combined Program you will have registration applications pending with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (VA DCJS) and the Security Industry Authority (SIA).

## Domestic

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### FAQs

#### **What Credential Programs are available through EPI?**

EPI offers a range of Virginia Certified Department of Criminal Justice Services Private Security Courses. Our world renowned 7-day Providing Executive Protection Program and Protectors Pistol Courses exceed the Commonwealth's Standard for the Armed Personal Protection Specialist Credential.

#### **What is a Personal Protection Specialist?**

A personal protection specialist means any individual who engages in the duties of providing close protection from bodily harm to any person.

#### **What are the Eligibility Requirements to obtain the P.P.S. Credential?**

Virginia DCJS requires that you: Be a minimum of 18 years of age; successful completion of all initial training requirements for each registration category, including firearms endorsement if applicable; be a United States citizen or legal resident alien of the United States.

**Do I need the P.P.S. Credential?**

YES. You must have a valid registration, and a firearms endorsement if working in an armed capacity, in order to provide close protection services in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Does being an Armed Personal Protection Specialist allow me to carry a concealed handgun?**

NO. Persons who carry or have access to a firearm while on duty must have a firearm endorsement as described under 6VAC 20-171-365 of the state regulations. If carrying a concealed handgun, the person must also have a valid concealed handgun permit, and the written permission of his/her employer pursuant to 18.2-308 of the Code of Virginia.

**Is there a National Executive/Close Protection Credential or License?**

NO. Just like there is no Nationwide Concealed Carry Permit. A National Executive/Close Protection Credential or License would take the Regulatory Oversight away from the individual State Licensing and Credentialing Boards. Several States, however, grant “waivers” or honor the training you have completed at EPI.

## International

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### FAQs

**What is the SIA?**

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) is the organization responsible for regulating the private security industry in the United Kingdom (UK). The SIA is an independent body reporting to the Home Secretary, under the terms of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Anybody who wishes to work in the security field in the US, or for a UK-based company, must meet the requirements for a SIA License.

**Who is the Professional Bodyguard Association (PBA)?**

The PBA was originally formed in 1985 and became an accredited centre with Pearson Education in January of 2006. The PBA is the ONLY legitimately registered UK nonprofit organization seeking to further this profession, those who engage in it, and the public interest. The PBA is accredited to deliver all its training courses internationally. Because of our standing with Pearson Education, we are also allowed to offer “Recognition of Prior Learning” (RPL) training to those with prior training and experience. The qualifications offered by the PBA fulfill the training requirements for the highly valued UK SIA license.

**What Training is Required to Obtain a SIA License?**

When you apply for a Close Protection License you must show that you have had the training required of a licensed operative. This means that you must hold the Level 3 Certificate for Working as a Close Protection Operative within the Private Security Industry. The PBA is accredited by Pearson Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC), one of the largest and most respected educational accrediting organizations in the world. The PBA is the ONLY Pearson accredited training provider licensed to provide the Level 3 Certificate in the United States.

**What is RPL training?**

“RPL” stands for “Recognition of Prior Learning”. It means that PBA has the approval of our accrediting organization, Pearson Education, to recognize the legitimate training and experience of those in the industry seeking further training, qualifications, and licensure. In other words, those who have previous legitimate training and experience may not have to complete the entire PBA training

course, but only those sections lacking in their previous training and experience. This means less time and less cost for the student.

*\*Note, however, that as the PBA training course is an academic course backed by Pearson Education, even RPL students will need to complete all required written and practical testing, including a completed practical exam and final workbook.*

### **What do I have to do in order to qualify for RPL training?**

The PBA has already cross mapped the training materials from the Executive Protection Institute to our own requirements, and if you have attended their training, you simply need to send proof of attendance in their course in order to qualify for RPL training. If your training provider has not been cross mapped to PBA requirements, you will need to apply for RPL training, submit your resume, training certificates, and all information on the curriculum of the courses you have attended to the PBA for review.

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**EPI** is honored to have been chosen, since 1978, to provide training in our concept of personal protection techniques for personnel assigned to the best government, private and corporate protective teams in the world. Our graduates have gone on to continue training and practicing the techniques we have created; and in so doing, have created a new professional career field. Our obligation includes imposing selection standards for all of our students with applicants carefully screened prior to admittance. Our training techniques allow us to blend inexperienced novices with season practitioners. We are seeking to train motivated, dedicated men and women who are sincerely interested in learning how to provide the very best personal protective services and make a personal commitment to this profession.

## Contact us

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