



**ROBOTICS IN MANUFACTURING
FUNDAMENTALS (RMF) CERTIFICATION
PROCESS GUIDE 2025**



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What is certification?

Earning a professional certification is a voluntary process by which candidates are assessed against predetermined and standardized criteria for knowledge, skills, competencies, and/or abilities required of a profession. Those successfully completing certification requirements are granted a time-limited credential. To retain your certification, recertification is required after a specific period and involves continuing training and development.

[Code of Ethics](#)

Why become certified?

Whether you are just starting out, or a seasoned professional, certification can help you become a high-value commodity to your employer and be among the most sought-after individuals in your industry. Certifications not only help you attain knowledge, they prove it. Certifications are recognized and respected industry credentials. Professional certifications:

- Validate your knowledge against industry standards.
- Provide a portable, industry-recognized credential that travels with you throughout your career.
- Enhance your career opportunities — certification can provide a competitive advantage in the job market.
- Improve your marketability by demonstrating your commitment to continuous learning.

SME Certification Standards

As a certifying body, SME is held to rigorous standards to ensure certification integrity. SME's Certification Oversight & Appeals Committee, composed of member volunteers representing industry and academia, routinely evaluate all exam questions for performance, relevance, currency, and integrity.

Robotics in Manufacturing Fundamentals (RMF) Certification

The Robotics in Manufacturing Fundamentals (RMF) credential, focused on the fundamentals of manufacturing robotics, provides a starting point for career pathways in the field of robotics.

RMF is focused on assessing a candidate's comprehension of fundamental robotics concepts and may be used by those currently looking to upskill or reskill into manufacturing careers before pursuing equipment-specific or career pathway-specific training in robotics. The credential can help individuals begin a lifelong career in an industry where there is opportunity for advancement and good-paying jobs.

The industry recognized RMF credential was developed by SME, with two leading organizations in the robotics education area: Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation and *FIRST*.

The RMF credential is ideal for high school and college students, dislocated workers, under-employed individuals, veterans, at-risk youth and others who are seeking new employment in high-demand manufacturing jobs.

With an RMF credential and the fundamental knowledge it represents, a candidate has many options available to them.

Career Pathways

Certification offers an initial step into a technology-robust industry filled with opportunities for continued growth and advancement into higher level positions. After earning certification, SME encourages individuals to explore a variety of available career pathways in manufacturing and continue with training or education to earn more advanced technical certifications.



Groups

To inquire about certification for groups (companies, schools, etc.) please contact Tooling U-SME at info@toolingu.com or 866.706.8665.

Individuals

Individuals may pursue the RMF as part of their own professional development journey. Individuals must identify a proctor to monitor the individual while taking the exam. You may apply for the exam directly online or contact certification@sme.org with questions.

Process to Earn Your Certification

1. Assess your knowledge and experience

The Body of Knowledge or BOK is a detailed content outline that focuses on documenting the topics, subtopics, importance, competency level and weighting of each content area. A completed BOK is utilized to build the certification exam. The BOK is a guide to what content areas will be tested and the weighting determines how much coverage from each content area will be presented on the certification exam.

[Robotics in Manufacturing Fundamentals Body of Knowledge](#)

A skills checklist is a list that details the skills required to perform or have the knowledge of using the topics outlined on the body of knowledge.

[Robotics in Manufacturing Fundamentals Skills Checklist](#)

2. Preparation

Tooling U-SME offers an optional preparatory program of [22 online classes](#) covering foundational manufacturing topics such as an introduction to manufacturing, applied mathematics, robotic applications, robot systems and components, robot programming concepts, and more – topics agreed upon by manufacturing experts as being relevant for foundational robotics knowledge across a wide-range of industries.

With each class lasting approximately 60 minutes, the [training program](#) can be completed in just a few weeks (typically less than one month) or in one semester as part of an Introduction to Robotics course, offering short-term, but comprehensive, preparation for the certification exam.

Please contact Tooling U-SME for information on a subscription at info@toolingu.com or 866.706.8665. Note that the Tooling U-SME training program is not required.

3. Review the exam preparation tips

You may bring printouts of the downloadable PDF format of the online classes and notes into the exam room and use them during the exam. If you would like to use the PDF format of the class electronically, you may use the PDF as long as it is on a **separate device** from the device being used for your online exam. Sharing of materials and notes during the exam is not permitted.

Tab sections of your materials to make it easier to find information during the exam. You will not have time to look up every answer, so be thoughtful about what you want to access quickly and easily such as topics that you think have a high probability of being on the exam based on the Body of Knowledge.

Some key areas you might want to tab/identify include:

- a. Glossaries, Indexes, Tables, Concepts, and Formulas
- b. Topics that you think have a high probability of being on the exam based on the Body of Knowledge weightings for the exam that you are taking

[Exam Preparation Tips](#)

4. Apply for the exam, schedule and take the exam

The Robotics in Manufacturing Fundamentals exam is offered in online format only. You will have six months to take the exam from the date you apply.

Robotics in Manufacturing Fundamentals (RMF)	Online Exam Pricing
Nonmember	\$250
SME Member	\$125
College Student	\$75

[Apply Here](#)

SME Membership

At SME, we are committed to offering an extensive range of membership options tailored to suit the diverse needs of our members. From entry-level to experienced professionals, SME Membership is your partner in every phase of your manufacturing career lifecycle.

With a wealth of resources, networking opportunities and professional development programs, SME Membership is your key to advancing in the world of manufacturing. Join or renew now and invest in a thriving future for your manufacturing career.

Membership Benefits at a Glance

- 15,000+ members across 15+ countries for global connections.
- 125+ local chapters for networking opportunities.
- Free [engagement programs](#) for professional development.
- Member-exclusive [newsletters](#).
- Access to [Jobs Connection](#), a job board specifically for manufacturing industry jobs. When logged in, SME Members receive additional premium features at no cost.
- Up to 50% off [SME certifications](#) and free access to [peer-reviewed journals](#).
- Member discounts on [10+ industry conferences](#), including free expo hall passes to SME-produced events.
- Access to a robust technical library through on-demand webinars, [Tooling U- SME](#) training courses, and [Manufacturing Engineering magazine](#).

[SME Member Benefits](#)

5. Secure an exam proctor

Individuals must identify a proctor to monitor the individual while taking the exam. Your exam proctor can be your manager, supervisor, Human Resources representative, or a key administrator. They can also be a member of an SME chapter, or AME region, staff at your local college/university, library, or an authorized facilitator at the exam after a review program. All exam proctors must be approved by SME in advance. The proctor form should be completed and submitted at least two weeks before taking the exam. Your online exam details will be provided to your proctor directly and they will provide you with the information on the day of your exam.

Individual examinees may also request to have your exam scheduled with an online/virtual proctor. **This service is not available for groups.** Arrangements would be made through SME on your behalf. Please send your inquiry to certification@sme.org. There is a \$55 proctor fee for this service. Please note: There is a \$8.00 fee you will be responsible to pay if you are a no-show on the date and time of your scheduled exam. Reschedule if needed.

[Proctor Form](#)

6. Take the exam

The RMF exam is a three-hour exam and it consists of approximately 100 multiple-choice questions mapped to the Body of Knowledge.

To pass the RMF Certification exam, you will need to score 70% or higher.

7. Exam results

How will I find out my exam results?

After completing the online exam, you will learn your results immediately.

What happens if I pass the exam?

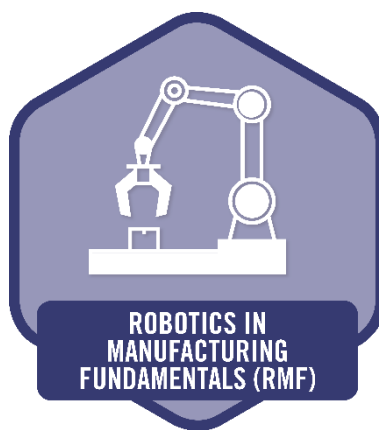
Examinees who successfully pass the exam, will be issued a digital badge via Credly. Once you accept your badge and create a Credly account you will be able to download your badge and certificate.

What happens if I do not pass the exam?

If you do not pass your exam, you may retake it 30 days from your original exam date. Candidates may use this time to study and prepare for the retake. There is a reduced exam fee each time you retake the exam.

8. What is Credly?

- A digital badge is a graphic representation of the successful completion of a program or course. Metadata within the badge contains a verifiable description of the specific knowledge, skills, and criteria required to earn the badge.
- Badge earners can have a profile on Credly where their badges can be displayed and shared. They can also download a printable certificate through their profile.
- Access to Credly is free for students who earn the certification.
- Badge earners can link to their Credly profile on their resumes and share their badges on other social networks to show potential employers that they have up-to-date and relevant skills.
- Through their Credly accounts, students have access to Credly's Talent Directory to help them find jobs and connect with employers.



How does an examinee accept their badge?

An examinee who successfully passes the RMF exam will receive an email via Credly on behalf of SME to accept their badge within 30 days of your original exam date. Upon accepting, you will be prompted to create a Credly account. Watch the videos below on how to accept your badge and download a copy of your certificate.

[How to accept and manage your digital badge](#)

[How to download your certificate](#)

Certification Appeals

For information on the appeals process please review the documents below:

[Certification Appeals](#)

[Recertification Appeals](#)

For more information about SME's other certification programs please visit:

<https://www.sme.org/training/certifications/>

For Certification FAQ's please visit:

<https://www.sme.org/training/certification-resources/>

