Like many educational programs, welding programs are constantly changing to keep up with industry demands. The objective of this study is to determine the strengths and weaknesses of newly certified welders and to identify the gaps that exist between certified welding programs and the welding industry. A secondary objective is to recognize the changes that need to be made in certified welding programs to address weaknesses of newly certified welders. Telephone interviews are being conducted with welding instructors at institutions across the United States. Six questions are asked of the welding instructors in regards to their background, opinions on strengths and weaknesses of newly certified welders, and gaps that they believe exist between certified welding programs and the welding industry. The interviews are transcribed and sorted into emerging themes. Conclusions are drawn based on the analysis of individual interviews as well as all of the interviews combined. The results of this study will identify issues that can be addressed to better prepare students gaining certification to enter the industry of welding.