



Development and Issuance of Micro-Credentials #380.104

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
October 14, 2019	November 17, 2020	Division of Academic & Student Affairs Academic Programs & Partnerships

POLICY STATEMENT

Departments/Colleges/Schools/Centers/Units may develop micro-credentials that document learner achievement in competencies needed for post-graduate success, re-skilling, or up-skilling. If Departments/Colleges/Schools/Centers/Units wish to develop micro-credentials, Academic and Student Affairs will facilitate this process in accordance with the below guidelines. Micro-credentials will be awarded centrally to ensure quality assurance.

Micro-credentials are:

1. Competency-based: Competencies are discrete sets of knowledge, skills, and abilities. Competency-based micro-credentials signal that a learner has demonstrated the specified knowledge, skills, and abilities at an appropriate level of rigor, aligned to appropriate assessments.
2. Rigorous: In consultation with Academic and Student Affairs, the appropriate level of rigor will be determined based on the nature of the proposed micro-credential.
3. Assessed: All approved micro-credentials must have student learning outcomes (SLOs) and program outcomes (POs) associated with them.
4. Aligned to Industry/Post-Graduation needs: Proposed micro-credentials must align to competencies required for learners to be successful in the workplace and/or in a post-graduate degree.
5. Comprehensive: All micro-credentials must have a culminating reflective experience that requires the learner to reflect on the micro-credential pathway and how the competencies align to their own personal and professional growth.
6. Stackable and Portable: To the extent possible, micro-credentials should be designed as a pathway. Micro-credentials should also be recognized as valuable to community and industry partners.

Micro-credentials are digital representations of specific competencies that learners develop throughout their coursework or other related educational experiences.



SCOPE

This policy applies to the University Community including faculty, and staff when developing and awarding micro-credentials.

REASON FOR POLICY

To establish a centralized framework to ensure that micro-credentials maintain an appropriate level of rigor and are consistently awarded according to this policy and related guidelines.

DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITIONS
Micro-credential	Micro-credentials are a competency-based form of skills validation. Micro-credentials can be awarded in the form of digital badges or micro-certificates. A quality micro-credential must be based in assessment best practices, aligned to industry or post-graduate needs, and culminate in a reflective experience. Micro-credentials should be developed so that they are stackable and portable, ensuring that they hold value for completing future educational pathways and/or are recognized as important by the community and/or industry partners.
Digital Badge	A badge is a type of micro-credential. Badges are guided by a competency statement and linked to student learning outcomes that can be assessed. Once the competencies are met, the badge can be issued.
Micro-certificate	A micro-certificate is a collection of related micro-credentials that are related to a specific theme or meta-competency. Micro-certificates can be organized in several different ways based on consultation with Academic and Student Affairs to determine the overall goal of the certificate. Micro-certificates can be offered to undergraduate and graduate students, as well as to non-enrolled learners.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Departments/Colleges/Schools/Centers/Units who wish to develop a micro-credential will work with Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) to facilitate the application, assessment, and design process.

Micro-credentials aligned to an existing program, course, or experience will be developed by the unit in consultation with ASA and must include appropriate assessment requirements.



Micro-credentials aligned to a program, course, or experience that do not yet exist but would traditionally require approval through the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee, must still follow that approval process before the micro-credential can be designed and issued. This process applies to any micro-credentials that are designed to be stacked together to award academic credit and outside of the scope of Policy 340.350 Credit used to Accelerate Undergraduate Time-to-Degree or the Graduate Transfer Policy.

Academic and Student Affairs

ASA is responsible for the oversight, including planning, approval and awarding of micro-credentials. ASA collaborates with the Office of the Registrar for student micro-credential records to be maintained.

RELATED RESOURCES

AUTHORITY/SOURCE

Board of Governors Regulation 8.001 University Calendars
Board of Governors Regulation 8.002 (1) Continuing Education
Policy 380.085 Graduate Transfer Credit
Policy 340.350 Credit used to Accelerate Undergraduate Time-to-Degree

CONTACTS

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT

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HISTORY

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Review Dates (*review performed, no updates*): N/A
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