

Micro-credential Principles and Framework



Ready to launch a micro-credential initiative?

The eCampusOntario principles and framework is a great place to start. Join fourteen Ontario colleges and universities and contribute to the development of a nimble skills recognition system in Ontario and beyond. This framework was developed by a community working group of employers, colleges, universities and other public agencies dedicated to building a harmonized micro-credential ecosystem in Ontario. This is a living document. Partner organizations and institutions are encouraged to test this framework in their contexts and share their findings publicly to enable the development of a healthy micro-credential ecosystem that serves all Ontarians.

Principles

Relevance

Micro-credentials will only be issued for competencies that are currently relevant to the labour market. Relevance is achieved through consultation and partnership between employers and post-secondary institutions.

Verifiability

Micro-credentials will be verifiable, and integrity will be maintained.

Ownership

Once awarded, micro-credentials and associated data will be the property of the earner.

Extensibility

Micro-credentials will be designed to facilitate continuous pathway for lifelong learning, where possible.

Framework



Issuing Body

Micro-certifications will be issued by an established agency, organization, institution, or employer.



Competency/skills targeted

Micro-certifications will adhere to harmonized skills and competency language and will be aligned with a common competency framework such as ESCO¹.



Outcomes

Micro-certifications will recognize performance competencies explicitly aligned to underlying knowledge, attitudes and skills.



Summative assessment

Micro-certifications will require evidence of achievement of outcomes. Evidence will be embedded and visible to employers.



Transcriptable

Micro-certifications will be compatible with traditional transcripts, where possible.



Partner endorsement

Micro-certifications will be validated by industry partners/external bodies, where possible. This validation will confirm 1) the competency is in demand by industry and; 2) the established assessment is reflective of job performance in that industry.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1326&langId=en>

The following institutions have adopted the Principles and Framework to guide ongoing micro-credential pilot projects:

