

Ontario Extend

Professional Learning for Educators

The Ontario Extend program is a micro-credentialed professional learning program designed to support online teaching and learning.

The Extend Mission: Empowering Educators



Exploring emerging technologies and pedagogies.

Ontario Extend develops digital fluency skills of Ontario educators and empowers them to explore a range of emerging technologies and pedagogical practices for effective online and technology-enabled teaching and learning.



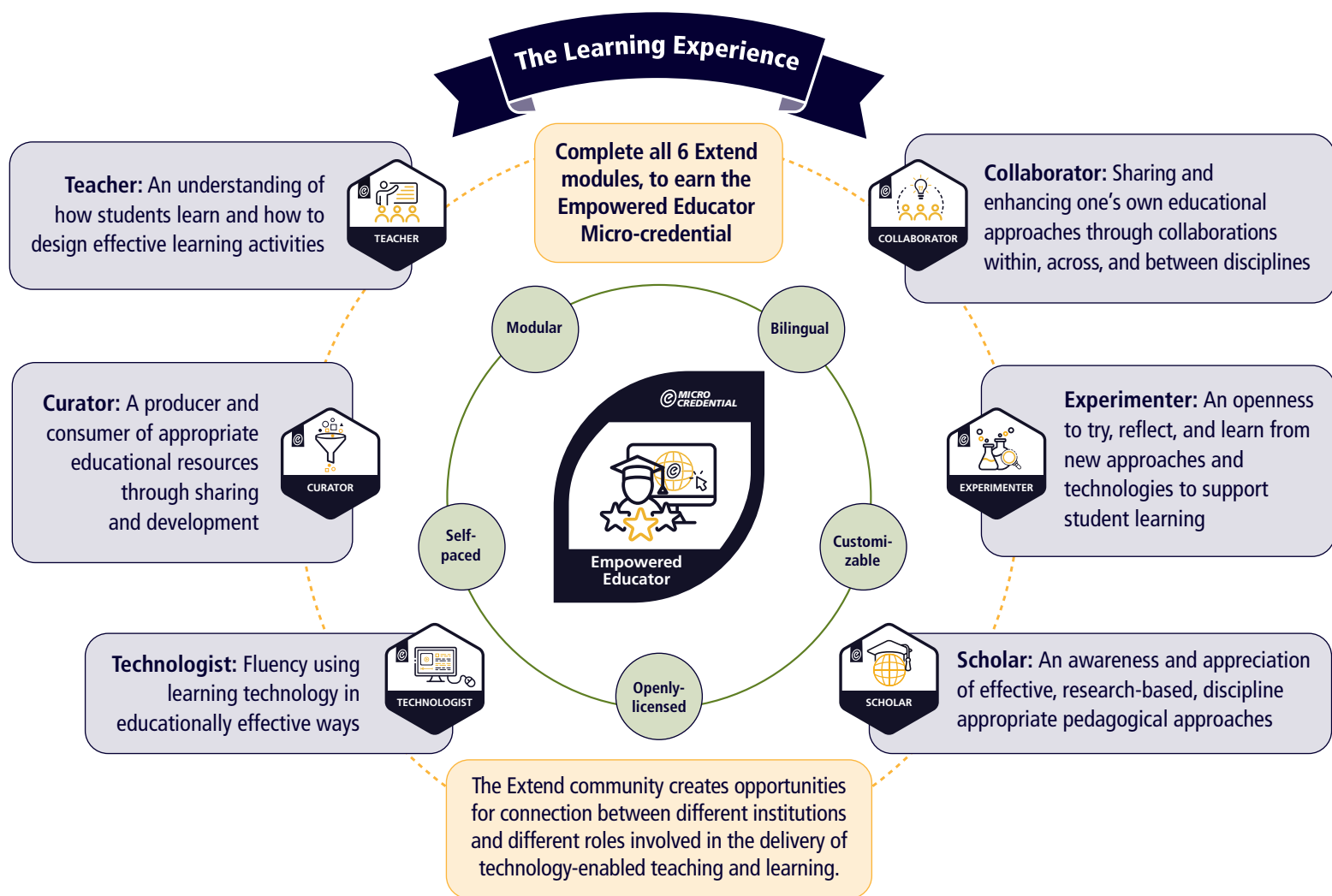
Developing digital fluency through experiential learning.

Extend is grounded in the belief that digital fluency is a process, not a product, and that learning to teach effectively with technology requires an experiential learning approach through open communities and open pedagogy.



Connecting educators through communities of practice.

Participants benefit from connecting to a province-wide Community of Practice in the pursuit of professional learning for digital fluency. The Extend training also compliments existing Teaching and Learning Centre programming.



Investment for Scaling Impact

Ontario Extend has been offered as an openly licensed, self-paced learning program since 2017. In 2021, eCampusOntario embarked on a journey to scale the Ontario Extend program to reach more educators in more Ontario postsecondary institutions. All six modules are offered as courses with optional facilitated check-ins, and asynchronous community discussion forums in order to enhance the learning journey and motivate educators to completion. With continuous enrolment throughout the summer and fall semesters, this flexible approach to delivery offers Ontario's postsecondary educators several opportunities to participate at their own pace and/or with provincial colleagues.

New Learning Management System (LMS) For Scaled Reach



Educators access all learning materials immediately after registration, navigate their Extend learning journey, and connect with other educators & facilitators.

Institutional Endorsements for Credential Recognition



Endorsements represent the recognition of achievement, skill or competency, and collaboration between eCampusOntario and postsecondary Education Institutions. In 2021, Extend began working to represent endorsements digitally through its digital badging framework.

Endorsed digital credentials support efficient and effective talent development strategies and labour mobility.



Educators use eCampusOntario's Digital Badge Passport to collect, display, and share their badges on social media such as LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook.

***Educators can now use their Empowered Educator micro-credential as credit towards the Certificate in Post-Secondary Teaching at Conestoga College.**

**Want to bring Ontario Extend to your institution?
Email us at extend@ecampusontario.ca to get started!**



3 Program Facilitators support educators through different engagement options.

Variety of offerings allow educators to design their own learning experiences from any of the following...



Independent study

Engage with Ontario Extend modules and complete the module activities at your own pace.



Asynchronous discussion board

Join the Ontario Extend community, engage with module learning materials, and connect with facilitators and peers from across the province through our Brightspace Learning Management System discussion forums.



Synchronous sessions

Live check-ins offer a guided option for facilitated delivery. Multiple times to engage with each module ensures we meet the needs of your busy schedules.

- Daytime
- Evening
- Weekend



Growing Engagement in 2021

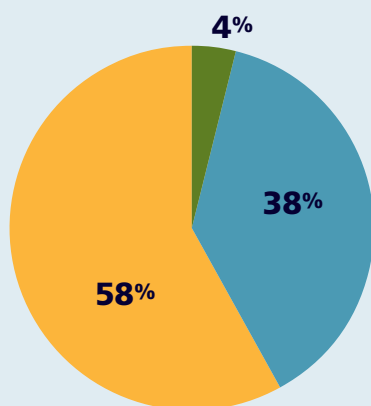
The insights presented here come from the April-December 2020 and April-December 2021 reporting periods.

2021 Participation Breakdown

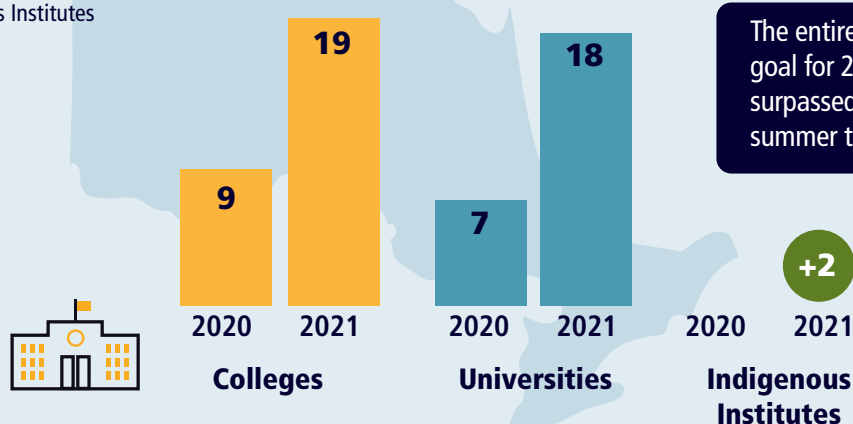
400 new enrolments | 48% growth from 2020 enrolments

New Enrolments by Type of Institution

Colleges Universities Indigenous Institutes



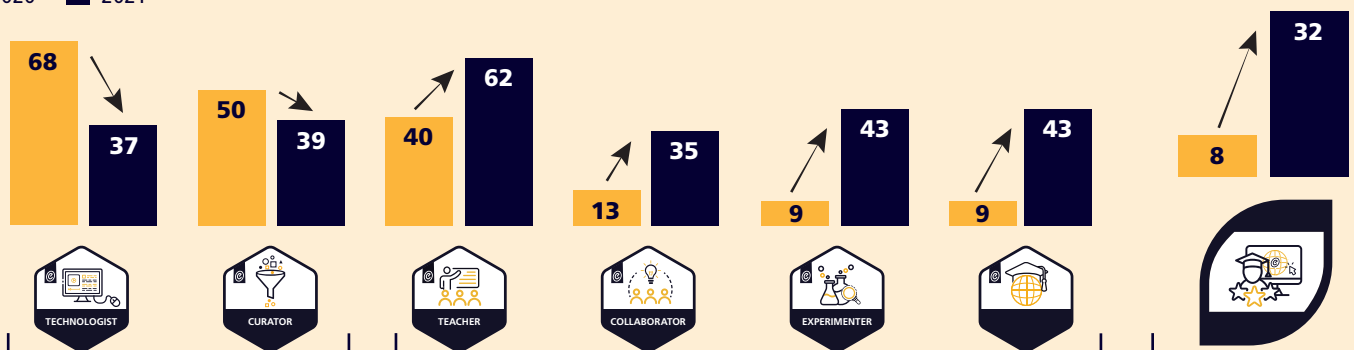
Representation of Member Institutions grew from 16 in 2020 to 39 in 2021



Year-Over-Year Growth in Educators' Achievements

The total number of badges and micro-credentials, grew by 48%, from 197 in 2020 to 291 in 2021.

2020 2021



When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, educators turned to enhancing their technology and learning content curation skills for a rapid transition to emergency remote teaching.

In 2021, as digital and hybrid models kept growing and evolving, educators increasingly turned to a more holistic approach for digital-by-design teaching and learning.

Increased engagement in full micro-credential completion.

Stories of Extended Impact

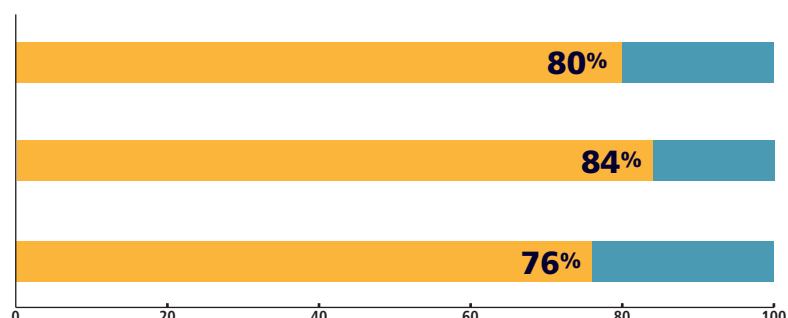
In 2021, we surveyed more than 50 Ontario Extend participants to understand how the program has impacted their approach to technology-enabled teaching and learning.

■ Agree or Strongly Agree ■ Neutral or Do Not Agree

I developed a new skill or discovered a new technology after participating in the Ontario Extend Program.

I am more interested in incorporating technology into my teaching after participating in the Ontario Extend Program.

I feel more comfortable teaching with technology after participating in the Ontario Extend Program.



In December 2021 eCampusOntario hosted the first Ontario Extend Graduation Ceremony.



Recognizing Ontario's postsecondary educators that have achieved their Empowered Educator Micro-credential by completing all six modules and navigating transformations in education and digital pedagogy.



"The Ontario Extend program has provided me with so many valuable experiences as a teacher and learner. I can tell I have become a stronger and more well-rounded teacher throughout this journey. I appreciated the opportunity to experiment with new tools and sharpen the ones I was previously familiar with. I look forward to implementing many of the online technologies I have learned about and continuing to engage with the community in the future."

– Maria Romios, York University



"My biggest takeaway from the whole experience with Ontario Extend was the sense of connection with the larger educational community. Previously my experience having conversations about practice has been somewhat isolated to a select group in my professional network, but this selection of workshops gave me a greater sense of being part of a larger community of educators, learning, experimenting, and growing together."

– Christopher Rowe, Fanshawe College



"Completing the six badges... of the Ontario Extend program made me feel more confident to incorporate technology into my teaching. The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) module reminds me that teaching excellence is a journey and it encourages me to continue to improve my teaching practices. Special thanks to all the friendly, knowledgeable, and supportive facilitators who encouraged me to finish the Empowered Educator micro-credential badge this year. The learning environment was flexible, positive, and fun."

– Meyer Tanuan, Conestoga College

[Register to begin your Extend journey.](#)



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