

Learning Objects and UMUC IMS 2016 Finalist

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Title: An Extended, Competency-Aligned, Student-Centric, Standards-Based Transcript

Challenges instructors and institutions are facing:

The traditional transcript was created for degree completion, incorporated courses, grades, and credit units.

Today, with advanced technology, this historic record may be considered rigid or inflexible, even outdated. Students, instructors, institutions, and employers are looking for alternative ways to track and understand credentialing that uniquely detail students' diverse capabilities. A transcript should no longer end when the student graduates. Instead, it should be a living record that builds throughout the learners' life and career. Finding a way to effectively demonstrate and integrate this type of transcript could potentially be difficult.

The solution for instructors and institutions: What if the transcript could be a digital, formative, and interactive lifelong learning tool?

In a competency-aligned extended transcript, institutions and instructors would be able to integrate competency badging, credential stacking, and micro credentialing. This living and growing transcript would continue throughout the students' life.

By becoming a digital, formative, and interactive learning tool, students are empowered by building new skills and their real-world competencies are supported by authentic evidence. A competency-aligned transcript includes evidence of learning and demonstrates authentic work that verifies students' unique skills across multiple disciplines.

Alternatively, when reviewing these rich transcripts, employers have deeper insight to candidate's strengths and experiences. As a trustworthy form of data, this transcript is backed by a Registrar's Office and digitally certified.

Learning impact outcomes:

What would be the impact on learners, institutions, and employers?

Students, when using a competency-aligned transcript, can track their progress towards their degree, as well as drill down to fundamental skills, knowledge, and abilities. When students understand that their transcript is now an evolving and living document, they will become more engaged in their work and their future. Each learning artifact that they've created or contributed to now serves a specific purpose in moving them closer to reaching their goals. The extended transcript provides an authentic view of the learners' experience and allows them to demonstrate real-world job capabilities with clarity and confidence.

Return on investment:

Employers – Employers would be able to quickly search for targeted skills and efficiently onboard new employees. By partnering with local institutions, employers identify competencies needed at their company, that then the institution could track at the program level.

Students – Students will see stronger return on investment for their education if they complete their time at the institution and move forward towards another academic or career oriented goal.

Institutions – Institutions where students utilize the competency-aligned transcript could experience stronger retention and completion rates. For example, one institution that recently implemented badging and an extended transcript, is seeing \$1M for every 1% of students retained across the lifetime of the student on campus.