

We See You, Microcredentials

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Presenters



Chris Davis

Vice President of Academic Services and Quality
University of Maryland Global Campus



Rob Coyle

Digital Credentials Program Manager
1EdTech



Ryan Lufkin

Vice President of Global Academic Strategy
Instructure



Kelly Hoyland

Director, Higher Education Programs
1EdTech





Definitions

Microcredentials - a subset of learning achievements or outcomes that is less than a full degree or certificate, such as a skill, competency, or course.

Open Badges - A digital badge built using the Open Badges standard. Serve as portable credentials containing metadata that offer detailed information about the achievements being credentialed.

LERs and Wallets - Generic terms for a collection of credentials or related records, or a place to collect credentials and records



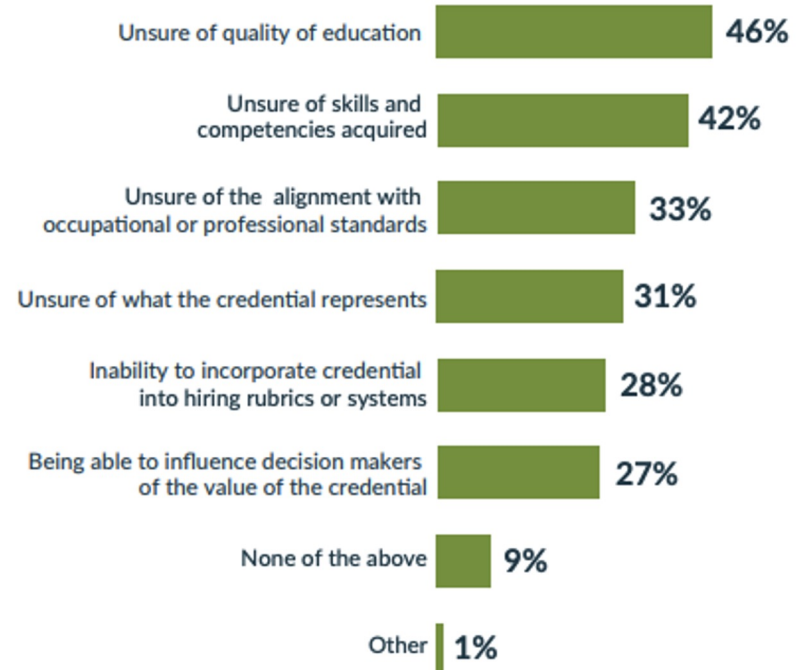
What Problem are We Solving?

What are the concerns?

1EdTech Survey from May 2023:
“Which of these are the “bigger”
problems with microcredentials?”

1. Inconsistent Rigor
2. Quality/Completeness
3. Not Industry Relevant

Figure 15: Which of the following challenges or drawbacks does your organization associate with a résumé that includes non-degree or alternative credentials, if any? (n=513)



<https://collegiseducation.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/UPCEA-Collegis-Employers-and-Microcredentials-Report.pdf>



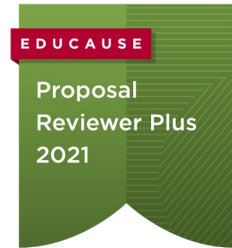
Variability is a Challenge

Wide range of use cases for Open Badges resulting in:

- Varying level of rigor and skill achievements required
- Inconsistent use of metadata fields
- Uncertainty of value

Context of the use case matters

- Who is issuing
- What is the purpose
- What is the intended value for the earner





Bridge Program (Asia)



Greater Washington Partnership



UPE Honor Society



Digital Forensic Examiner
Digital Media Collector



UMGC Cyber Warriors Team

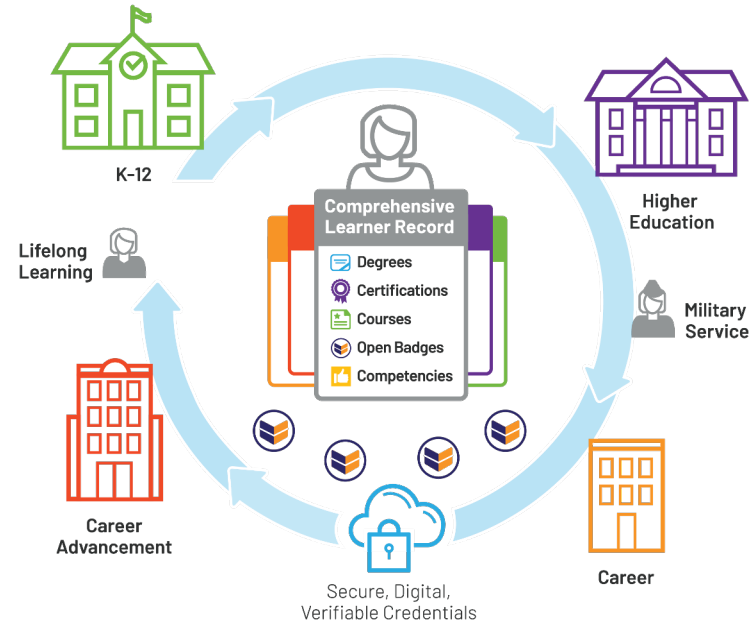


Incompatibility of Credentials is a Problem

Interoperability

By not utilizing open standards:

- Every credential requires special software to unpack and has no basis for consistent interpretation/comparison
- Credentials are unable to move across the education and employment ecosystems (they are locked into proprietary alternatives)
- Without adoption and verification of the use of open standards, it is difficult to see how the use of microcredentials can scale



Digital Microcredentials

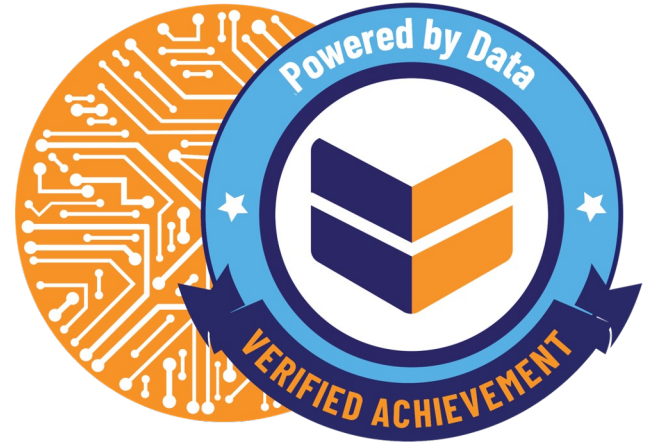
The power of microcredentials in standardized digital format

Open Standards exist that enable microcredentials to be:

- Branded and instantly verifiable as authentic
- Tagged with metadata that clarifies the value
- Combined into digital transcripts
- Curated by learners to pursue opportunities
- Filtered by employment systems
- Tracked for data collection on usage
- Aligned with industry frameworks

Digital microcredentials help address some of the challenges of microcredential

And, creation, issuing and storage of digital credentials are now supported by a leading wave of digital credential software providers



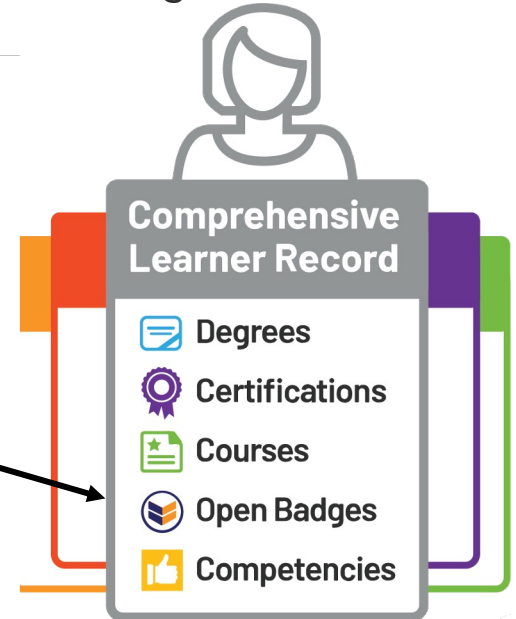
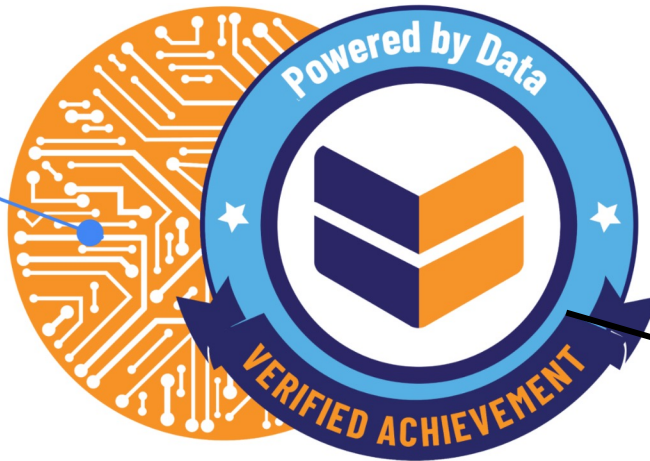
The Leading Standards for Digital Credentials

1EdTech **Open Badges** v2 (established), v3 (emerging): Microcredentials

1EdTech **Comprehensive Learner Record Standard™** v1, v2: Combining microcredentials with transcripts and employment records

Open Badges

- Badge Criteria
- Badge Description
- Alignment
- Evidence
- Skills
- Recipient
- Issuer
- Issue Date
- Expiration Date
- Electronically Signed



What is the Coalition?

A Coalition to Drive Market Change

Creating consistent expectations for common use cases will provide value to:

- Earners to share achievements when and how they chose
- Receivers to have enough data in the credential for the receiver to understand what it represents
- Issuers know what data the market needs within each credentials

Comprised of senior executive leaders who represent organizations representative of the ecosystem.





What is a TrustEd Microcredential?



TrustEd Microcredential Framework

The [TrustEd Microcredential Framework](#) builds on the Open Badges data standard by defining a set of minimum and recommended data expectations

	Recognition Badges	TrustEd Microcredential Knowledge	TrustEd Microcredential Application
Use	Acknowledge participation	Demonstrates foundational knowledge	Ability to apply knowledge
Example	Organization membership	Successful exam completion	Completion of a research project
Assessment	No assessment	Aligned to earning criteria	Aligned to earning criteria and creates evidence that could be included



Relevancy & Trust

What does this microcredential represent?

- Does it clearly represent a skill?
 - Is it linked to an external framework?
- Who is issuing the badge and why do we trust them?
 - What is their credibility?
 - What is their expertise



"Icon made by Pixel perfect from www.flaticon.com"

Related data fields: Skills, Framework Alignment, Issuer Accreditation



Proof of Achievement

- What was the criteria for achievement?
 - Was a rubric used?
 - Can we show proof of achievement?
- How do identify the rigor?
- What is type of achievement is being recognized?



"Icon made by Pixel perfect from www.flaticon.com"

Related data fields: Evidence, Rubric, Result, Criteria, Assessment, Duration, Achievement Type



Metadata Field	Purpose	Knowledge	Application
Skills	Identify skills represented in credential	Identified using text	Linked to external skills definitions
Framework Alignment	Identify alignment to a framework	Identified using text	Identified and linked
Issuer Accreditation	Identify accreditation status or awarding authority	Identified	Identified
Issuer	Identify which organization is issuing the badge	Recommended	Recommended
Evidence	Provides the opportunity to include sample work or other evidence to support the assertion	Optional	Recommended
Rubric	If applicable, provide the scoring rubric that was used in the assessment	None	optional

Metadata Field	Purpose	Knowledge	Application
Result	Identify the learner's final assessment result, does not have to be numeric	required	required
Criteria	Identify what the learner needed to achieve to earn the badge	required	required
Assessment	Information about assessment(s) completed in earning the credential	Identified using the data requirements	Identified using the data requirements
Duration	Information related to the length of time required to complete the credential	optional	optional
Achievement Type	The type of achievement most closely aligned with the credential	Required, must use specific type	Required, must use specific type
Endorsement (if applicable)	Identify 3rd party support or approval of credential	Optional	Required

What's Next?

A horizontal bar spanning the width of the slide, divided into two equal halves. The top half is yellow and the bottom half is orange.

Certification Program

Verification of the consistent use of open standards enables ecosystem growth and trust

- Certify that the badge platforms can issue Open Badges v3 badges that include TrustEd Microcredential Tiers
- Audit issuing platforms are requiring identified metadata fields based on TrustEd Microcredential Tiers
- Certify that badge platforms allow for free movement of badges to other platforms



What can you do?

- Sign the [Commitment](#)
- Ask your partners to adopt the [Framework](#)
- Be on the Lookout for Additional Webinars
- 1EdTech Members can contact us to learn more about joining the Coalition itself



Join Us for More on TrustEd Digital Credentials

June 3-6, 2024 | Salt Lake City, Utah | Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City



Learning Impact
CONFERENCE 2024



1edtech.org/event/li/2024





Digital Credentials Summit 2025

March 3-5 Phoenix, Arizona

*Save the
Date!*

THANK YOU



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