
Micro-Credentials

Version: 2.0

Responsible University Official: Provost

Version Effective Date: July 1, 2023

1.0 Introduction

In creating the micro-credential definitions, the desire is to ensure that academic units have the autonomy and flexibility necessary to leverage multiple uses of micro-credentials across different audiences:

- Motivating current students toward completion of a degree program by highlighting progressive attainment of skills and competencies.
- Supplementing an existing degree program with new, complementary skill sets.
- Inviting new students to (or back to) campus by way of smaller sets of curriculums that have value on their own and when stacked toward another credential (laddering from academic micro-credential to stand-alone degree or certificate program).
- Supporting academic/industry partnerships through new credentials that meet industry requirements and/or are designed to meet a specific need.
 - Providing more specificity to potential employers about skills and competencies learned; and
 - Providing short-term offerings geared toward professional development/life-long learning.

2.0 Scope

This policy governs all units and programs under the purview of the Provost and the Dean of the School of Medicine.

Saint Louis University offers three types of micro-credentials:

- Academic
- Skill and Competency
- Continuing Education

3.0 Guiding Principles

- Academic quality is paramount for micro-credentials; faculty governance participation is required.
- Micro-credentials are initiated locally, developed, and approved according to academic unit policies and procedures, while maintaining consistency with institution, state and federal policies and regulations.
- Micro-credentials designed to meet market needs should be informed by current data from appropriate markets and align with relevant industry/sector standards.
- Micro-credentials should be portable and stackable.

4.0 Definitions

Academic micro-credential

An *academic* micro-credential is a unique, thematic focused collection of courses offered at the undergraduate, graduate, or professional level.

Academic micro-credentials require at a minimum of 6 credits of coursework.

A minimum grade of “C” is required for undergraduate courses and a minimum grade of “B” is required for post-baccalaureate/graduate courses.

Due to the small number of credits required, all coursework must be completed at Saint Louis University and all coursework must be completed after the creation of the micro-credential. However, students that are enrolled as degree-seeking students at the time the micro-credential is created may count completed coursework toward the new micro-credential.

Academic micro-credentials may require a maximum of 14 credits of undergraduate courses and a maximum of 7 credits for post-baccalaureate/graduate courses. This aligns with the definitions of undergraduate minors (15 credits), undergraduate certificates (16 credits), post-baccalaureate minor (9 credits), and post-baccalaureate certificates (8 credits).

Additionally, *academic* micro-credentials:

1. represent a lower level of mastery than an academic program they are subcomponents of therefore representing a basic understanding of the intellectual theme. For example, the level of mastery that an undergraduate major or graduate program is designed to teach,
2. must not overlap in title with an existing degree, major, minor, certificate or micro-credential offered at Saint Louis University,
3. may be a subset or selection of courses in an existing degree, major, minor or certificate offered at Saint Louis University,
4. are designed either individually or collaboratively by a department(s), college(s), school(s), center(s) or other unit(s) authorized to offer degree programs,
5. are comprised of courses, but may also include non-course curricular requirements (such as completion of portfolios, certification exams, etc.),
6. are identified on a student’s transcript.

Approval: *Academic* micro-credentials follow the standard approval process for academic programs (for example, approval by Department, School/College UAAC/GAAC, CADD and the Provost).

Skill and Competency micro-credential

Offered to current students and complementing the curriculum, these are micro-credentials that help earners obtain and demonstrate skills. These can include, for example, industry- recognized “hard” skills like a programming language, or “soft” skills such as critical thinking.

Additionally, *skill and competency* micro-credentials:

1. are stand-alone and primarily comprised of non-course curricular requirements (such as completion of portfolios, certification exams, etc.),
2. must not overlap in title with an existing degree, major, minor, certificate or micro-credential offered at Saint Louis University,
3. are not **solely** comprised of academic credit-bearing opportunities (see *academic* micro-credential above),
4. are **not** identified on a student’s transcript but **will** be recorded on permanent student records to ensure their validation may occur in perpetuity.

Approval: *Skill and Competency* micro-credentials follow the standard approval process for academic programs (for example, approval by Department, School/College UAAC/GAAC, CADD and the Provost).

Continuing Education micro-credential

Used for lifelong learning, professional training. For example, a licensed social worker may participate in a continuing education event to earn a micro-credential.

Additionally, *continuing education* micro-credentials:

1. shall be planned to meet the educational needs of a specific target population of professionally trained individuals,
2. adhere to the standards set forth by relevant accrediting and/or licensing bodies,
3. can be a stand-alone event or incorporated into an academic for-credit course,
4. are **not** identified on a student transcript but **may** be recorded on permanent student records to ensure their validation may occur in perpetuity.

Note: *continuing education* micro-credentials may be offered simultaneously as *academic* or *skill and competency* micro-credentials, and comply with above definitions and approval processes.

Approval: The Dean of the offering College and School approves *Continuing Education* micro-credentials.

5.0 Additional Notes

All Saint Louis University credentials may be electronically badged with the following hierarchy:

1. Micro-credential, Minor and Concentration
2. Undergraduate Major and Undergraduate Certificate
3. Graduate Certificate
4. Master's Degree
5. Doctoral Degree

6.0 Approvals

This policy was:

1. Approved by CADD/Provost: March 13, 2023
2. Amended by CADD/Provost: June 23, 2023