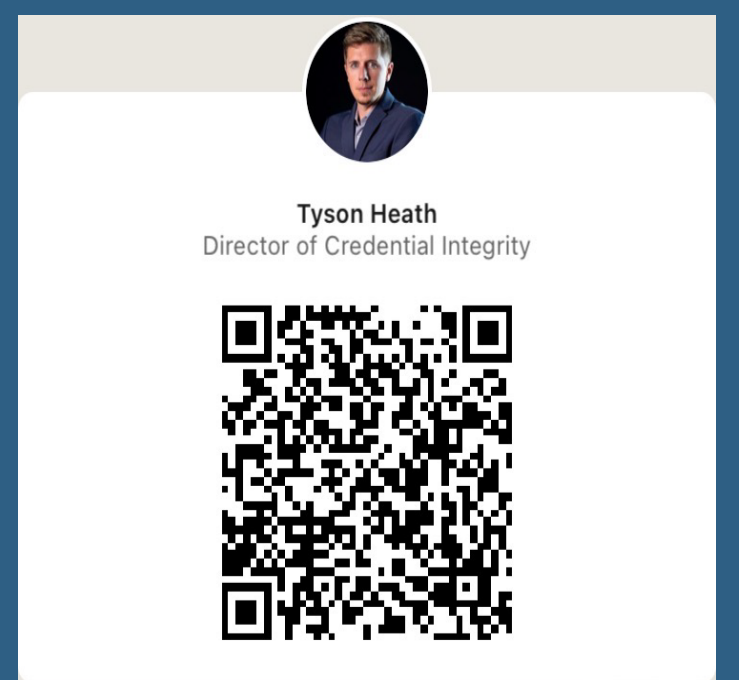


Pathways to Opportunity: A Unified System of Skills-Denominated Credentialing

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Unified Credential Framework

Western Governors University's Unified Credential Framework (UCF) enables a unified system of credentialing where learners earn *incremental value* as they make their way to higher-level credentials. This framework supports Skills-Denominated Credentials (SDCs), including our competency-based, skills-tagged and shareable degrees, and a new micro-credentialing system of high-demand, labor market-relevant skills and competencies.

UCF Criteria

Workforce Aligned Competencies and Skills

Credentials recognize professional and personal competencies and skills explicitly aligned to high-demand workforce needs.

Relevant and Authentic Assessment

Credentials require validation of achievement of competence, which is assessed using authentic, real-world workforce use cases.

Transparent and Portable

Credentials are issued in open standards allowing for seamless portability and transparency of credentials between organizations.

Validated Open Skills

Credentials represent skills aligned to industry partners and/or external bodies ensuring market value.

SDCs Mastery Classes

Class 1

Mastery of essential knowledge, skills, and dispositions foundational for the demands of modern society, learning and work.

Class 2

Ability to apply an expanding set of knowledge, skills, and dispositions in a given professional or academic context.

Class 3

Ability to apply and transfer an expanding set of knowledge, skills, and dispositions across a range of professional or academic contexts.

Class 4

Ability to create novel strategies and tactics to address the requirements of a range of professional or academic contexts.



Competency Badges

- Single or set of competencies
- Prepares learners for a specific professional or academic skill or task
- Mastery class: 1-4
- Offered as part of a degree or microcredential program



Certificates

- 3 or more grouped competencies
- Prepares learners for a particular job or set of professional or academic skills and tasks
- Mastery class: 1-4
- Scope and targeted outcomes to certification not industry recognized qualifications



Certifications

- 3 or more grouped competencies
- Qualifies learners for a particular job or set of professional skills and tasks required by industry qualification requirements
- Mastery class: 1-4
- Typically offered by third-party industry credential provider.



Specializations

- 6 or more program competencies
- Prepares learners for an array of specified jobs, skills, and task sets within a professional sector or academic domain.
- Mastery class: 2-4
- Sub-component track or path of degree program



Degrees

- 10-120 or more program competencies
- Prepares learners for employment and advancement in a specified career trajectory
- Mastery class: 2-4
- Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's

Scaffolding Competencies and Skills

