

# Credentialing

## OVERVIEW

*Credential: 'the abilities and experience that make someone suitable for a particular job or activity, or proof of someone's abilities and experience.'*

*Cambridge Dictionary*

Credentials come in many forms. Universities credential their students with certificates, diplomas and degrees across different areas and at different levels of mastery. The Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA) credentials Victorian school students with the VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) and VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning). The online world provides us with easy access to credentialed short courses.

Credentials are used to demonstrate learning success but not all credentials provide the information that future employers need to know about their potential employees. Schools and universities are exploring different ways that students can demonstrate their skills and understandings and showcase their distinct learning profile, via 'alternative credentialing'.

*Micro-credentialing* refers to the credentialing of smaller units of learning (often via digital badges or certificates). It provides an avenue to acknowledge and validate the different skills students have acquired and demonstrated across subjects and learning experiences. The key focus of this type of 'new credentialing' is to highlight 'transferable general capabilities' (transferable skills) which are important to businesses, organisations, community groups and individual learners.

Micro-credentialing can provide proof points of transferable skills and, alongside mastery of subject knowledge and skills, can play a key role in students' future pathways. Transferable skills are needed to develop expertise and deep understanding of subject areas and vice versa.

*A credential provides proof of someone's abilities or experience.*

## TRANSFERABLE SKILLS include

- > Teamwork
- > Problem solving
- > Critical thinking
- > Creativity
- > Planning and organisation
- > Communication
- > Initiative
- > Leadership

## FEATURES OF MICRO-CREDENTIALS

- > Specific learning outcomes/earning criteria
- > Evidence of mastery
- > Different levels of mastery
- > Warranted – evidence of learning validated
- > Provision of a portable digital badge or certificate
- > Linked to standards such as the Australian Curriculum, International Society for Technology in Education standards

*These can be collected in a portfolio to spotlight the development of a student's skills and their experiences during their CGGS education.*

## FURTHER READING

[Future Proofing Australian Students with New Credentials](#)