



Microcredential & Badge News

July 2026

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of Microcredential & Badge News. As [microcredentials and digital badging](#) grow at the University of Arizona, this newsletter will keep you informed about new developments and features, recently approved microcredential proposals, and the number of badges awarded to learners. Each issue will also highlight a microcredential offered at the University, feature a member of the Microcredential Committee, and share upcoming meeting dates.

What are Microcredentials & Digital Badges?

Microcredentials are short, focused programs that help learners gain specific skills, knowledge, or workforce-ready competencies. Upon completion, learners earn a digital badge, a verifiable and shareable record of achievement that can be used in professional portfolios, resumes, or online profiles to demonstrate skills to employers.

For questions or feedback, please reach out to [Erin Riesgo](#), Alternative Credentials Coordinator.

NEW MICROCREDENTIALS

Faculty, staff, and academic units at the University of Arizona can submit proposals to create new microcredentials. Developing a microcredential is an opportunity to highlight specialized skills, respond to workforce needs, and create flexible learning pathways for students and professionals. Microcredentials can also support program innovation and expand access to targeted, skill-based learning.

New Microcredential Requests

Microcredential proposals are submitted through [Coursedog](#).

Request Access to Submit Microcredential Requests:

[Provisioning Tool](#): New Access Request > Coursedog > Microcredential Management > Requester

Once access is granted, refer to:

- [Resource Guide: Submitting a New Microcredential Proposal](#)
- [Resource Guide: Microcredential Creation & Approval](#)



By the Numbers: January 1 - June 30, 2026

- **New Microcredentials Approved:** 23
- **Badges Issued/Awarded:** 751
- **Acceptance Rate:** 80% (Claimed badges)
- **Share Rate:** 47% (Claimed badges being shared on social media, email, etc.)

Acceptance and share rates increase when learners understand the value of digital badges. Digital badges are verified, shareable credentials that allow learners to showcase specific skills and achievements to employers, professional networks, and on digital platforms such as LinkedIn.

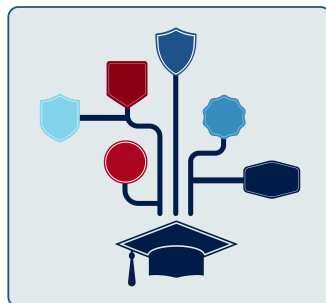
Link to [Credly Terms](#).

WHAT'S NEW?



Brightspace - Credly Integration

Tracking learner progress in Brightspace? Make badge awarding easier by selecting a completion “trigger”. To learn more about this process, check out the [Automatically Award Credly Badges in Brightspace](#) help page.



Flexible Pathways

Microcredentials can be structured as vertical, linear, or combined pathways. New and existing badges may be incorporated into new pathways. For support in developing stackable credentials, reach out to [Erin Riesgo](#).



Wildcat Journey Badge

Wildcat Journey badges support the University of Arizona's promise of Success for Every Student by highlighting engagement and skill development without competency-based assessment. Use cases include serving on the [Undergraduate Advisory Council](#) and participation in early student-development programs such as [A Student's Journey](#).

BADGE SPOTLIGHT

Applied AI in Public Health

Offered by Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

[Applied AI in Public Health](#) recognizes competency in applying AI to public health through data analysis, geospatial methods, and AI prototyping. Participants demonstrate skills in integrating diverse datasets, creating reproducible workflows, prompt engineering, and evaluating ethical, equity, and bias considerations. The badge emphasizes real-world problem-solving, interdisciplinary collaboration, and designing AI adoption strategies for health systems.

This microcredential is designed for students and professionals interested in public health, data science, or artificial intelligence applications in healthcare. Individuals interested in participating can learn more about eligibility, requirements, and enrollment by visiting the program webpage.



MICROCREDENTIAL COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT



Kathy Broncek, Ph.D.

Position: Associate Professor of Practice in Animal & Comparative Biomedical Sciences

Favorite Part of Teaching/Job: One of my favorite parts of teaching is being a part of students' "ah-ha" moments. Teaching not only deepens my knowledge in my own field, but it also offers a constant exchange of learning. My students teach me just as much about life, resilience, and personal growth, not to mention the occasional generational slang that keeps me laughing. It's incredibly

rewarding to watch them gain confidence in their skills and take steps toward their career goals.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy a variety of hobbies that help me stay balanced and inspired. I love reading, hiking, and exploring new places through travel. I'm also a fan of creative outlets such as silversmithing and cooking.

Fun Fact: I can flex at least 3 lit Gen Alpha slang words, no cap...and I can write it in cursive too.

Why Microcredentials: I appreciate that microcredentialing provides individuals with specific, verifiable credentials that demonstrate their expertise and often contribute toward industry-recognized qualifications. Its flexible, online format and targeted focus make acquiring job-relevant skills more accessible to a broad range of learners.

To explore microcredentials further, visit the Office of the Registrar's [Exploring Microcredentials and Digital Badging](#) forum or the [Microcredentials & Digital Badges](#) webpage. For additional questions, contact [Erin Riesgo](#), Alternative Credentials Coordinator.

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