

Digital Badges

Badges are micro-credentials that students can earn to demonstrate certain capabilities based on courses taken and provide students with a way to communicate competencies. Academic badges are earned by completing a sequence of Senate approved courses where the combination of the courses together result in a skillset for the individual. Badges are not at the same level as university approved certificates and currently do not show up on the student's transcript. However, badges could be used to build to an individual's completion of a certificate.

There is a preference for flexibility to remain in creating badges and in particular, those that will focus on interdisciplinary topics. Furthermore, badges can provide value to many target audiences including current students and non-degree seeking students.

We envision both "academic" badges and co-curricular, non-credit bearing badges. Currently, all academic credentials (whether they are termed micro or otherwise) are considered to be programs by SACSCOC. Given this, one potential option for the development and oversight of badges is for the Senate to approve an overall process and approach for badges and then allow the colleges and curriculum committees already in place within each college do be responsible for the approval of specific badges. This would ensure a uniform process across the university and faculty involvement in the approval of badges. The individual badges would not go through a formal review by the SAPC committee. Of note: OSPIE would need to be involved in the development/approval process given the requirements of assessment for a program.

Our committee seeks feedback from Senate Council regarding this potential process for badge development and approval. Would the process need to be different for interdisciplinary badges that span across multiple colleges? Additionally, what would be the approval process for these non-credit bearing badges that are not "academic"?