

Title: Badges

Category: Academic Affairs

Responsible Cabinet Member: Office of the Provost

Scope

This policy establishes the framework for the creation, governance and awarding of badges at the University. It aligns with the University's mission to recognize and promote student learning, professional development and workforce readiness through badge programs that validate defined skills and competencies. The policy ensures consistency, quality and integrity in the development and administration of both credit-bearing and non-credit-bearing badges across academic and non-academic programs, under the authority of the Office of the Provost.

Definitions:

- **Badge:** Awarded by the University, a badge program consists of courses which collectively provide one (1) or more defined skill sets or competencies that can be useful to students/learners and employers.
 - Credit-bearing badges: A credit-bearing badge program consists of five (5) to eight (8) credit hours of coursework, which collectively provide one (1) or more defined skill sets or competencies useful to students/learners and employers.
 - Non-credit-bearing badges: A non-credit-bearing badge consists of two (2) to four (4) courses or requirements, which collectively provide one (1) or more defined skill sets or competencies that can be useful to students/learners and employers.

Policy Statement: The University recognizes badges as official programs that validate student achievement in defined skill sets and competencies. This policy sets forth requirements for the development, review, approval and administration of both credit-bearing and non-credit-bearing badges.

- **Credit-Bearing Badges**
 - A credit-bearing badge must have an approved faculty body that reviews and approves the program curriculum and evaluates program assessment.
 - A credit-bearing badge must be a minimum of five (5) credit hours and must not exceed eight (8) credit hours.
 - A student must earn a "C" or better, or a passing grade in a Pass/Fail course, in each of the required courses to earn a badge.
 - Courses required for a credit-bearing badge in academic colleges can be in any hundred series.
 - Credit-bearing badge proposals will be reviewed using the curricular approval process of the University. The Office of the Provost will have final approval.
 - Credit-bearing badges homed outside of a college will be reviewed and approved by a Provost-appointed faculty body. A Provost-appointed officer shall serve as dean of the program.
 - Credit-bearing badge meta data and administration will be the responsibility of the academic program.
- **Non-Credit-Bearing Badges**
 - A non-credit-bearing badge consists of two (2) to four (4) courses or requirements.
 - A non-credit-bearing badge must be housed within the Office of the Provost.
 - Proposals for non-credit-bearing badges will be reviewed using the curricular approval process of the University. The Office of the Provost has final approval.
 - Responsibility for meta data and administration is housed in the Office of the Provost.