

# MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### Section 313

**SUBJECT: DIGITAL BADGING**

---

**PURPOSE: To establish criteria for developing and awarding digital badges**

---

#### A. Introduction

A digital badge is an electronic representation of skills, knowledge and abilities acquired by a student as a result of successful completion of coursework or an experience offered by a MCCS college. This policy describes the basic criteria for the development and award of digital badges, also referred to as “micro-credentials.”

#### B. Badge Levels

Digital badges are awarded for three levels of learning:

Level 1 – Exploration and Discovery. This foundational level requires students to retain and understand the course content and make sense of the material learned.

Level 2 – Skill Development. This practical application level requires students to analyze their work and describe how the parts relate to the whole.

Level 3 – Initiative/Leadership. This mastery level requires students to create materials and experiences that support others to grow, thus demonstrating their ability to initiate, evaluate, create, and innovate based on what they have learned.

Accumulation of badges at all three levels within a content area will culminate in the issuance of a “Macro Badge,” which is considered a “Credential of Value” by the MCCS. The “Macro Badge” represents a cumulative assessment of skills with visible evidence of learning.

#### C. Badge Development Pathways

Badge development for each level of learning can occur through one of three separate pathways:  
:

1. Learning Pathway for Matriculated Students. Badge development is informed by internal student and faculty data. Badges enhance curricular experiences by requiring students to demonstrate skills, knowledge or abilities beyond those

required for successful credit course completion.

2. **Mastery Pathway for Workforce and Professional Development.** Badge development is informed by industry and employer needs, labor market tools, and existing business and industry training curricula. Badges are offered for successful completion of non-credit experiences and may be used to earn college credit through the Prior Learning Assessment process.
3. **Course Cluster Progression Pathway.** Badge development is based on successful completion of a series of credit courses or non-credit experiences and requires the student to submit a cumulative assessment document at the completion of each of the three badge levels.

**D. Badge Approval Process**

A College seeking approval of a badge shall complete the MCCS Badge Approval Form appended to MCCS Procedure 313.1 and submit the form to the MCCS Chief Academic Officer who shall assemble a team of three subject matter experts from across the System to review the proposal for approval or revision.

---

REFERENCES: *MCCS Procedure 313.1*

DATE ADOPTED: June 19, 2019