




UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
SYSTEM

‘Ōnaehana Kulanui o Hawai‘i

Alan Rosenfeld, PhD
Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Policy

January 3, 2024

TO: Chancellors/Provost
Council of Chief Academic Officers
Council of Senior Student Affairs Officers
Faculty Senates
UH Student Caucus

FROM: Alan Rosenfeld 
Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Policy

Gloria Niles
Director of Online Learning

Gloria Y. Niles, PhD
Digitally signed by Gloria Y. Niles,
PhD
Date: 2024.01.03 11:40:19 -10'00'

SUBJECT: Consultation on Proposed Executive Policy on Micro-Credentials

A new Executive Policy to define and establish guidelines and procedures for the development and issuance of micro-credentials at the campus level to ensure academic standards and consistent practice across the system has been prepared. The proposed policy is hereby being submitted for formal consultation. Please consult with your constituents, delegates and/or governing bodies and **provide any comments via this [online comment form](#) by February 5, 2024.**

Justification for Policy

Micro-credentials represent an evolving trend in higher education and professional development, offering modular, focused learning experiences tailored to specific skills or competencies. Unlike traditional degrees and certificates, these credentials are **incremental** and can be accumulated over time, providing learners with the flexibility to adapt their education to their career goals and market demands. They are designed to be shorter in duration, digitally badged, and focus on specific skill sets that are highly relevant in today's rapidly changing job market. This approach to education recognizes the importance of lifelong learning and the need for continuous skill development in a fast-paced, ever-evolving professional landscape.

Current UH policy does not address micro-credentials. This policy provides a framework that will afford the UH campuses with the opportunity to create micro-credentials. As the mission, scope, and organizational structure of each campus differs, individual campuses will have the opportunity to develop specific guidelines and procedures for the authorization of micro-credentials provided that they conform to the terms of UH System policy. This policy establishes a definition, taxonomy, and broad guidelines for the development and issuance of micro-credentials; and identifies campus responsibilities to ensure academic standards and consistent practice in the development and issuance of micro-credentials.

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Informal Consultation

After a [Micro-Credential Policy Work Group](#) developed a draft policy, the Office of the Vice President for Academic Strategy engaged in informal consultation with a variety of individuals and groups from across the system. This process entailed providing a draft version of the proposed policy and receiving feedback from:

- UH Officers
- Council of Chief Academic Officers
- Council of Senior Student Affairs Officers
- Campus Financial Aid Officers
- Campus Registrars

We are now initiating the formal consultation phase so that we may gather feedback from a broader audience. Please send comments or questions using the [online comment form](#) by **February 5, 2024**. Thank you.

Attachment

c: Registrars
Financial Aid Officers



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‘Ōnaehana Kulanui o Hawai‘i

Alan Rosenfeld, PhD
Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Policy

April 19, 2024

TO: Chancellors/Provost
Council of Chief Academic Officers
Council of Senior Student Affairs Officers
Faculty Senates
UH Student Caucus

FROM: Alan Rosenfeld *Alan Rosenfeld*
Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Policy

Gloria Niles *Gloria Y Niles*
Director of Online Learning

SUBJECT: Follow-up Review on Proposed Executive Policy on Micro-Credentials

Following the formal consultation for this draft Executive Policy on Micro-Credentials, administration reviewed all comments received and the draft policy has been revised in order to address the concerns. Listed below is a brief description of the changes made:

- We added the phrase “at the program level, by faculty” to Section III.B to underscore the faculty’s role in developing curricula, including micro-credentials.
- We clarified the signification of a digital badge and a badge’s relationship to a micro-credential.
- We replaced the terms “competency” and “competencies,” which have a specific meaning in the parlance of the accreditation world.
- We renamed the category of digital badges issued in recognition of a credit-bearing micro-credential to “Academic Achievement.”
- We clarified what is meant by the term “Open Badges standards.”
- We added the phrase “including how they might lead to a credential” to Section III.G to underscore the fact that the policy allows each campus to determine if and how to enable micro-credentials to be stacked toward full UH credentials.
- We added the phrase “in a central repository” to Section III.H to provide additional parameters for campus storage of micro-credential records.
- We executed a number of stylistic and vocabulary changes in response to feedback collected during the formal consultation process.

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Post-consultation Memo on EP 5.231 on Micro-Credentials

April 19, 2024

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Attached are redline and clean copies of the revised draft policy. Please review the revised draft and the changes made in response to consultation. If you identify any errors, please email ovpas@hawaii.edu by **May 15, 2024**.

Mahalo.

Attachments

c: Registrars
Financial Aid Officers