Microcredential

Policy Number:	**1311**
Key Process Area:	**Academic Planning and Evaluation**
Owner:	**VP AISA**
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POLICY STATEMENT

As part of its commitment to lifelong learning, NBCC offers microcredentials that are flexible, accessible, and targeted at learner and industry needs. The College ensures all microcredentials are short, specific, standalone or stacked, employment-relevant, and authentically assessed.

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the requirements for designing, developing, delivering, and reviewing microcredentials at NBCC.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The provisions of this policy apply to anyone involved in the creation, delivery, or evaluation of microcredentials at NBCC.

1.0   DEFINITIONS

Authentic Assessment
- a type of assessment in which learners are asked to perform real-world tasks that demonstrate meaningful application of essential knowledge and skills.

Credit
- a unit of measure that indicates the total learning time allocated to address the course competencies, regardless of delivery mode.

Digital Badge
- a validated digital icon that is provided to a specific user when they are awarded a microcredential. It can be shared openly on digital platforms and acts as a digital transcript.

Microcredential
- a certification of assessed competencies that is additional, alternate, complementary to, or a component of a formal qualification.

Milestone Badge
- a digital badge issued upon completion of a multiple badge pathway.

Stackable
- the ability to combine (or stack) individual microcredentials to form a larger credential or qualification and help learners move along a pathway toward further education or different job responsibilities.

2.0   IMPLEMENTATION

2.1   Guiding Principles

Microcredentials at NBCC follow the guiding principles established by Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) in 2021. These principles are described in the *Microcredential Framework*.

2.2   Design and Development

Microcredentials are designed in collaboration with industry partners and/or subject matter experts. Details about authentic assessment methodologies are included in the curriculum standards for microcredentials.

Microcredentials may be granted on a non-credit or for-credit basis, and may be standalone offerings recognized with a digital badge or stackable credentials culminating in a milestone badge.

2.3   Delivery

Microcredential delivery includes at least one form of authentic assessment.

2.4   Awarding of Microcredentials

2.4.1   Digital Badge

Upon successful completion of a microcredential, a visual representation of the credential is issued to the learner as a digital badge that includes:

- metadata of competencies and how the mastery was determined (method of assessment)
- an image representing the competency area for the microcredential
- the name of the industry or professional body that has endorsed the credential (if applicable)

A milestone badge may also be awarded to the learner in the form of a digital badge upon successful completion of a series of related microcredentials.

2.4.2   Transcript

Microcredentials are recorded on academic transcripts with the number of credits (if any) and grade.

2.5   Quality Assurance

Microcredentials are subject to a robust quality assurance process that adheres to NBCC's *Academic Quality Assurance Framework*. The design, development, and delivery of microcredentials follow the same quality assurance principles as those that guide all programs and courses offered by NBCC.

Microcredentials are reviewed to ensure alignment with college policies and standards and learner, instructor, and employer needs.

3.0   OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS

Academic Quality Assurance (1101)
Academic Quality Assurance Framework (1101.2234)
Certification (1312)
Course Delivery and Evaluation of Learning (1109)
Credit System (1213)
Grading and Academic Recognition (1108)
Microcredential Framework
Microcredential Process