Characteristics of High-Quality Micro-Credentials

Why focus on the quality of micro-credentials?

Using indicators of high quality to develop and review micro-credentials assures earners that earning the micro-credential is worth their time and effort and helps recognizers justify acceptance of the micro-credential as evidence of competency.

What are the characteristics of a high-quality micro-credential?

The characteristics of high-quality micro-credentials are grouped into three categories: design, content, and review. The design category includes indicators that describe the overarching principles guiding development of a micro-credential. The content characteristics address the features of the content required in the micro-credential, and the review category relates to how the micro-credential is assessed and shared.

Design Characteristics

- Embeds activities within the earner's job context.
- Requires performance of a targeted competency.
- Is based on demonstration of competency.
- Includes a range of stakeholders in developing the micro-credential.

Content Characteristics

- Aligns with content area or professional practice standards.
- States a clearly defined focus/competency.
- Requires application of content area pedagogy.
- Requires demonstration of general instructional strategies.

Review Characteristics

- Requires submission of evidence.
- Requires reviewers to provide feedback with multiple opportunities for earners to demonstrate competence.
- Uses reviewers who meet the standard of competence represented in the micro-credential.
- Requires training and calibration of reviewers.
- Uses a well-structured and validated rubric/proficiency scale to guide review of evidence.
- Provides a detailed digital record of earned micro-credential requirements.