



Advancing Global Higher Education

Alternative Credentials: Beyond the Diploma and Transcript

Results of the AACRAO July 2018 60-Second Survey



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Introduction

AACRAO members were asked about the existence of, or institutional interest in, alternative credentials. For the purpose of this survey, examples of alternative credentials include co-curricular transcripts, badges, e-certificates, comprehensive learner records, diploma supplements, e-diplomas, or any other micro-credential (a credential that is less than a certificate) (Appendix A). In retrospect, we should have included two other branching points in the survey. The first would have been asking those who already have some alternative credentials if they were considering others. The second would have been asking if any alternative credentials were in use at any time in the past but eliminated for one reason or another.

The survey received responses from 639 institutions, including several combinations of control, size, type, and countries (Appendices B and C).

Key Findings

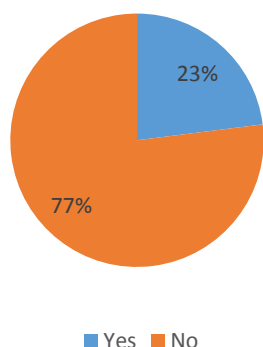
- Just under a quarter offer at least one type of alternative credential.
- Of those that do, the co-curricular transcript is the most common.
- The co-curricular transcript is most often issued by student affairs whereas most of the others are issued most often by the registrar's office.
- Among the institutions without alternative credentials, 38% are considering offering at least one, and the co-curricular transcript is being considered by the majority.

The remainder of this report contains figures summarizing the aggregate results. Questions regarding this or any other AACRAO research should be directed to Wendy Kilgore, AACRAO Director of Research, at wendyk@aacrao.org.

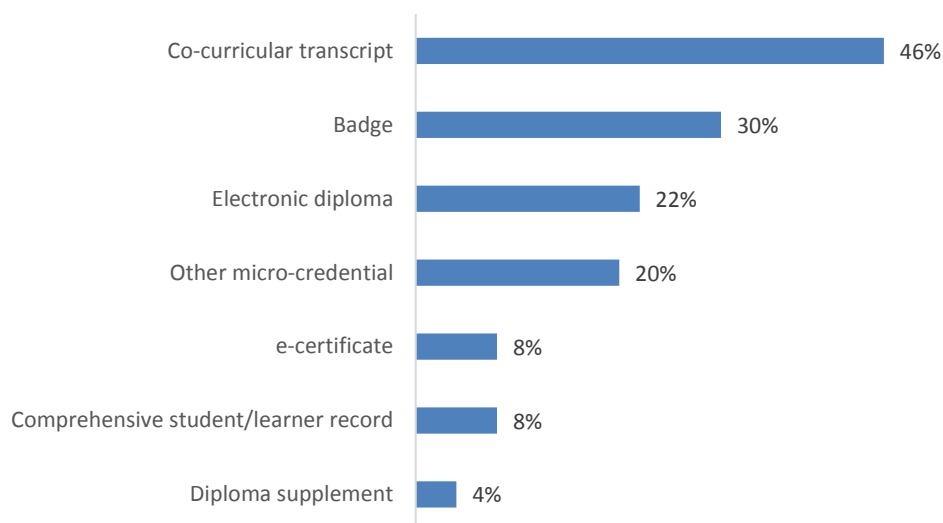


Results

Q1.1 Other than official transcripts and diplomas for degrees or certificates, does anyone at your institution currently issue any of the following: co-curricular transcripts, badges, e-certificates, comprehensive learner/student records, electronic diploma, diploma supplements or any other micro-credential (a credential that is less than a certificate)?



Q2.1 Which of the following do you current issue? Check all that apply.



Q2.2 Other Micro-credentials offered by your institution.

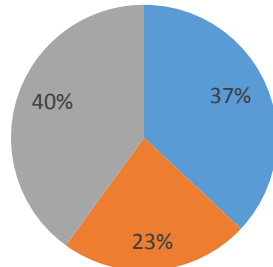
The institution draws up a certificate with the identification number and academic program
In-house made certificate to acknowledge the completion of a training.
Letter of recognition
These are (essentially) certificates of completion in one of our living/learning programs that are incorporated as a requirement in their curricula.
For career technical education - low unit certificates to create employment pathways
We offer six different Skill Sets in marketing and criminal justice. These skill sets are 16 - 18 credits in length and



fold in to our certificate and associate degree programs in their respective areas. Students are not awarded a diploma like students earning a certificate or an associate degree; rather, a certificate is printed, designating their completion. The skill set is noted on students' official transcripts.
We offer professional certificates that are about 15 credits. They are designed for a student with a Bachelor's degree to have get specific training in things like Human Resources and Bookkeeping.
Statement of Completion; Global Competency badges
A group within our student affairs uses an old version of, essentially, an electronic resume/cv. It's not widely used, and it's very text-centric. As well, students may take advantage of Merit Pages.
A citation is provided if a student has completed a preparatory component of a larger credential
We offer Career Pathway Certificates- 6-24 credit pathways. Also offer Non-Credit Training Certificates but I think you are asking about credit course credentials.
National Student Clearinghouse Enrollment Verification Certificate
Industry Skills Certificate for a class or combination of classes that lead to the ability to earn an Industry Skills Certificate
Our "occupational skills awards" (9-14 SCH) are currently issued by the departments rather than by the Registrar's Office.
We create a certificate of completion for the certificate programs we offer. Certificates are not stand-alone programs. They are completed in conjunction with a major.
Our extended studies office awards certificates that are not approved through the regular university/state curriculum process.
Letter of Recognition 6 to 9 credits, Continuing education certificate usually 1 to 3 non-credit courses
LEAD certificate
Still in the process of being designed.
Transcripts for certificate students, letters and transcripts for non-degree students
Some departments issue "certificates" after students complete a course or group of courses, despite there being no recognized credential and being told to stop.
Institutional Certificate- awarded by the instructional department. The certificate of completion denotes the attainment of a skill making the student ready for entry level positions. Occupational Skills Award- awarded by the College Graduation Office. The OSA is defined in the computer system and completers are identified and reported aggregately to the State. Students may request a certificate of completion. Field of Study- awarded by the College Graduation Office. The FOS is defined in the computer system and completers are identified, the award is posted on the student's official transcript and reported aggregately to the State. Certificates of completion are not issued.
A skill identifier for a US Army function
Certifications for licensure.
Certificate of completion (for a noncredit program)



Q2.3 Are the badge(s) and/or micro-credentials part of a separate curriculum designed intentionally for the purpose of issuing a badge/micro-credential or are the badges achieved automatically as a student moves through a comprehensive program/major and/or micro-credentials?



- A separate curriculum designed intentionally for the purpose of issuing a badge or micro-credential
- Part of a comprehensive program/major
- Some of both (separate curriculum and part of a larger program)

Q2.4 Who issues these documents? (All that apply)*

	Registrar's Office	Student Affairs Division	Academic Department	Professional Dvlp/ Cont. Ed	Other	Count
Co-curricular transcript	31%	68%	2%	2%	6%	62
Badge	18%	11%	32%	24%	32%	38
Electronic diploma	93%	3%	0%	0%	3%	30
Comprehensive student record	90%	10%	20%	10%	0%	10
Diploma supplement	67%	0%	17%	0%	17%	6
e-certificate	56%	11%	33%	33%	11%	9
Other micro-credential	54%	8%	42%	35%	12%	26

* Data represents a percentage of responses not a percentage of choices so the row percentage totals may be more than 100%. More than one office could issue a particular alternative credential.

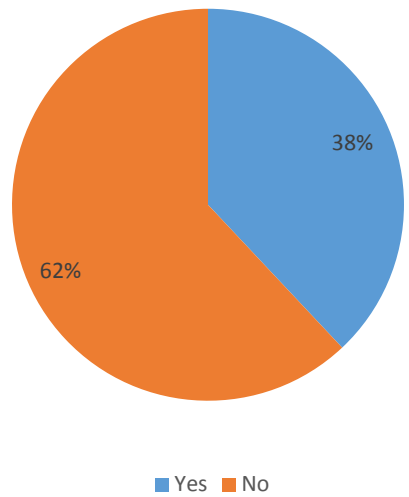
Q2.5 Other units not listed in Q2.4 who issue these documents.

Co-curricular transcript
Student Life & Leadership
Co-op
Student print this themselves
Career Services
Badge
A faculty team working on a grant through an outside funding agency
Depends on who is offering the course. Our institution uses Credly
Graduate College

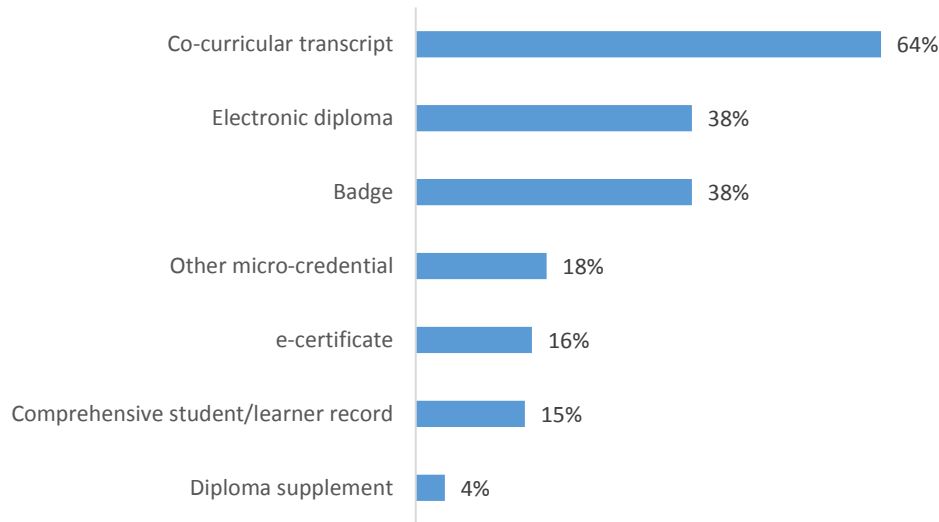


a vendor
Career Services
Acclaim with Reg Off
IDD
Center for Teaching and Learning, reports to the Provost
The State Board
automated
Technically the data comes from the Registrar, but it's issued by Public Relations.
Student advising
Electronic diploma
Third Party Provider
e-certificate
Continuing Education/Professional Development
Other micro-credential
Students can access their NSC Enrollment Verification Certificates through the Student Portal
Extended Studies
US Army

Q3.1 Is your institution considering awarding one or more of these alternative credentials: co-curricular transcripts, badges, e-certificates, comprehensive learner/student records, diploma supplements or any other micro-credential (a credential that is less than a certificate)?



Q3.2 Which of the following are under consideration (Check all that apply)?



Q3.3 Other Micro-credentials under consideration by your institution.

Not exactly sure at this time. It would need to be something that industries would somehow recognize. Working on it...
Micro-certificates at the graduate level for specific skills (e.g., writing skills, data analysis, etc.)
For specific skills. i.e., project management
Unsure at this time.
Full Stack Software Development Credential, Software Engineer Credential, Software and Data Analyst Credential, Online Curriculum Design Credential, Online Teaching and Assessment Credential
Mini credentials in the sciences or for teachers
Certificates of completion or participation for non-degree programs
PLA
We have an 'arm' of the institution that is for non-credit experiences and they do this already but it isn't connected to the institution in the form of it being on any official paperwork/documented in a way that our office can certify. So, while it is already done, we would never validate it.
Our division of continuing education is looking into them as its the new credential that is being talked about but I'm not familiar with them at this point.
These would be segments of a degree plan that relate to a specific field.
Possible credential through either Education or Physical Therapy. Neither are yet approved by the academics committee.
Notations on the transcript that would certify certain areas of focus.
Interest in stackable credentials, specifically for trades/industry certification (craft brewing, paramedic, welding).
Names to be determined. Awards for completion of short, focused programs.
Stackable certificates, standalone certificates, leadership development
undefined but block chain built mini-certificates or endorsements
Not sure
Some sort of designation of completion for a workforce-ready set of courses (but less than what is required for a formal Certificate).



Q3.4 - Who will issue these documents? (All that apply)*

	Registrar's Office	Student Affairs Division	Academic Department	Professional devlp./ Cont. Ed	Other	Count
Co-curricular transcript	56%	50%	3%	3%	6%	64
Badge	72%	10%	18%	21%	23%	39
Electronic diploma	96%	0%	4%	4%	2%	53
Comprehensive student record	93%	0%	0%	0%	7%	14
Diploma supplement	100%	0%	33%	67%	0%	3
e-certificate	60%	0%	20%	60%	13%	15
Other micro-credential	55%	0%	20%	35%	10%	20

* Data represents a percentage of responses not a percentage of choices so the row percentage totals may be more than 100%. More than one office could issue a particular alternative credential.

Q3.5 Other units not listed in Q3.4 who issue these documents.

Co-curricular transcript
Student Affairs or Community Engagement
Civic Leadership Division
Badge
We will roll out badge options to academic departments and student affairs after initial implementation.
Career Center
Approval by committee, including academic affairs staff and others
Career Services
Communications and Marketing
Other micro-credential
Professional School



Appendix A: AACRAO July 2018 60-Second Survey

July 2018 60-Second Survey Alternative Credentials - Beyond the Diploma and Transcript

Q1.1 Other than official transcripts and diplomas for degrees or certificates, does anyone at your institution currently issue any of the following: co-curricular transcripts, badges, e-certificates, comprehensive learner/student records, electronic diploma, diploma supplements or any other micro-credential (a credential that is less than a certificate)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Q2.1 Which of the following do you currently issue (Check all that apply)?

- Co-curricular transcript
- Badge
- Electronic diploma
- Comprehensive student/learner record
- Diploma supplement
- e-certificate
- Other micro-credential

Q2.2 Please describe the other micro-credential(s). _____

Q2.3 Are the badge(s) and/or micro-credentials part of a separate curriculum designed intentionally for the purpose of issuing a badge/micro-credential or are the badges achieved automatically as a student moves through a comprehensive program/major and/or micro-credentials

- A separate curriculum designed intentionally for the purpose of issuing a badge or micro-credential
- Part of a comprehensive program/major
- Some of both (separate curriculum and part of a larger program)

Q2.4 Who issues these documents? (All that apply)

	Registrar's Office	Student Affairs Division	Academic Department	Professional development/Continuing ed	Other	I don't know
Co-curricular transcript						
Badge						
Electronic diploma						
Comprehensive student record						
Diploma supplement						
e-certificate						
Other micro-credential						



Q2.5 Who issues the documents?

- Co-curricular transcript _____
- Badge _____
- Electronic diploma _____
- Comprehensive student record _____
- Diploma supplement _____
- e-certificate _____
- Other micro-credential _____

Q2.6 Thank you for participating in our survey. Your responses make a valuable contribution to our knowledge of practice. Please click on the next arrow to submit your response.

Q3.1 Is your institution **considering** awarding one or more of these alternative credentials: co-curricular transcripts, badges, e-certificates, comprehensive learner/student records, diploma supplements or any other micro-credential (a credential that is less than a certificate)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Q3.2 Which of the following are under consideration (Check all that apply)?

- Co-curricular transcript
- Badge
- Electronic diploma
- Comprehensive student/learner record
- Diploma supplement
- e-certificate
- Other micro-credential

Q3.3 Please describe the other micro-credential(s). _____

Q3.4 Who will issue these documents? (All that apply)

	Registrar's Office	Student Affairs Division	Academic Department	Professional development/Continuing ed	Other	I don't know
Co-curricular transcript						
Badge						
Electronic diploma						
Comprehensive student record						
Diploma supplement						
e-certificate						



Other micro-credential						
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Q3.5 Who will issue the documents?

- Co-curricular transcript _____
- Badge _____
- Electronic diploma _____
- Comprehensive student record _____
- Diploma supplement _____
- e-certificate _____
- Other micro-credential _____

Q3.6 Thank you for participating in our survey. Your responses make a valuable contribution to our knowledge of practice. Please click on the next arrow to submit your response.



Appendix B: Respondent Count by Institution Control, Type, Size

	Count
Public	303
Lower Division Only	83
2,500 - 4,999	14
Under 1,000	11
1,000 - 2,499	26
5,000 - 9,999	19
10,000 - 19,999	9
20,000+	2
Not Applicable	2
Undergraduate	33
2,500 - 4,999	5
Under 1,000	4
1,000 - 2,499	11
5,000 - 9,999	5
10,000 - 19,999	5
20,000+	3
Undergraduate, graduate and/or professional	183
2,500 - 4,999	18
Under 1,000	1
1,000 - 2,499	13
5,000 - 9,999	42
10,000 - 19,999	49
20,000+	60
Graduate and/or professional	4
Under 1,000	1
1,000 - 2,499	2
10,000 - 19,999	1
Private, not-for-profit	313
Lower Division Only	4
Under 1,000	1
1,000 - 2,499	1
20,000+	2
Other	2
Under 1,000	2
Undergraduate	64
2,500 - 4,999	4
Under 1,000	29
1,000 - 2,499	30
20,000+	1



Undergraduate, graduate and/or professional	221
2,500 - 4,999	59
Under 1,000	33
1,000 - 2,499	67
5,000 - 9,999	36
10,000 - 19,999	21
20,000+	5
Graduate and/or professional	22
Under 1,000	21
1,000 - 2,499	1
Private, proprietary	23
Lower Division Only	1
Under 1,000	1
Other	1
Under 1,000	1
Undergraduate	5
2,500 - 4,999	1
Under 1,000	4
Undergraduate, graduate and/or professional	15
Under 1,000	8
1,000 - 2,499	2
10,000 - 19,999	3
20,000+	2
Graduate and/or professional	1
Under 1,000	1
(blank)	
Grand Total	639



Appendix C: Respondent Country, State/Province

Country	State/Province
Armenia	1
Bulgaria	1
Canada	25
AB	3
BC	8
MB	5
ON	8
SK	1
China	1
Costa Rica	1
Cote d'Ivoire	1
Ghana	1
Mexico	1
PB	1
United Arab Emirates	2
United States	605
AK	1
AL	7
AR	6
AZ	6
CA	50
CO	10
CT	5
DC	3
DE	2
FL	23
GA	9
HI	3
IA	15
ID	3
IL	29
IN	12
KS	13
KY	11
LA	3
MA	22
MD	12
ME	6
MI	23



MN	19
MO	15
MS	2
MT	6
NC	21
ND	4
NE	6
NH	5
NJ	12
NM	2
NV	4
NY	42
OH	24
OK	9
OR	12
PA	28
PR	1
RI	2
SC	5
SD	2
TN	13
TX	30
UT	4
VA	19
VT	5
WA	10
WI	18
WV	9
WY	1
(blank)	1
Grand Total	639

