



Understanding the Micro-Credential Components

Micro-credentials created by the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) adhere to the design, assessment, and implementation principles developed under the guidance of The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and other key stakeholders. DESE micro-credentials include the following components:

LEARN

Competency: The micro-credential begins with a clearly stated, evidence-backed competency or skill the earner will demonstrate in the course of completing the micro-credential.

Key Method: The Key Method identifies the method for achieving the competency. When “shopping” for a micro-credential, the Key Method provides an outline of how the earner will demonstrate the competency.

PRACTICE

Method Components: The Method Components provides the earner with an informational summary of the learning needed to earn the micro-credential. The method components may include a more detailed description of the key method, actionable steps, and/or helpful strategies for demonstrating competency. The method components align to the artifacts and evidence for submissions. Any questions included in the Method Component section are rhetorical in nature and not required in the submission.

REFLECT

Research and Resources: As the earner engages with scholarly, peer-reviewed research articles, it is important to reflect on why the competency is important and how demonstration of the competency can improve professional practice. Any resources the earner might need to demonstrate the competency are included in this section. The earner may personalize this section of the learning path by delving as deeply into the research and resources as needed. Completion of a micro-credential does not require the earner to purchase additional materials and resources.

SHOW MASTERY

Submission Guidelines and Evaluation Criteria: This section has multiple parts; the most commonly included are

- an **overview** that provides the assessor with context about the earner and/or the earner’s classroom environment. This section helps the earner connect the new learning with prior knowledge and experiences related to the competency.
- **work examples and artifacts** that earners submit to demonstrate the competency. Micro-credentials may require a variety of artifacts (written descriptions, annotated video or audio submissions, lesson plans, student work samples, etc.) Each artifact is scored according to a specific rubric also included in this section.
- a **reflection** that asks the earner to reflect on how the demonstration of this competency has impacted his or her current professional practice or will impact future professional practice.

DISPLAY

After demonstrating the criteria to earn the micro-credential, the earner receives a badge that links to the competency. Earners may display the badge in their email signature or electronic portfolio, so administrators and colleagues are aware of the special skill the earner has demonstrated.