

SUNY NEW PALTZ MICROCREDENTIAL POLICY

Effective Date of Original Campus Policy: 03/08/2019

Latest Revision Date: 11/5/2025

Context: [SUNY's Evolving Microcredential Program](#)

SUNY Guiding Principles of Microcredentials

SUNY was the first university system to set a policy for microcredentials in 2018 and it has since become a program characterized by rapid growth and driven by broad interest. SUNY microcredentials are known for academic rigor, partnership with business and industry, stackability to the certificate and degree, and portability.

[SUNY Microcredential Definitions and Terms](#) as well as the following SUNY principles guide the development of SUNY microcredentials and underscore a commitment to quality, affirming the importance of collaboration, engagement, and partnership:

- Microcredentials are developed and approved according to local governance policies and procedures, consistent with campus mission and strategic goals. Academic quality is paramount for microcredentials, and faculty governance participation is required.
- Microcredentials are inherently flexible and innovative.
- Microcredentials can be delivered online, in the classroom, or as a hybrid combination of both.
- Microcredentials are portable and stackable.
 - Each SUNY microcredential should, wherever possible, serve as a pathway to related certificates and degrees.
 - Microcredentials can be for credit, non-credit, or non-credit to credit.
- A connection to getting or advancing in a job and providing a path to additional credentials is the value-add that SUNY's microcredential program provides. As a result, there is a clear connection between microcredentials and work.
 - Microcredential development is informed by regional and state priority occupations as well as new and emerging industry.
 - Microcredentials are designed to meet market needs and should be developed in partnership with and informed by business and industry and regional and state economic development priorities. As a result, faculty should engage business and industry, degree program advisory boards, and/or alumni in developing microcredentials with specific foci on needed skills, competencies, industry certifications, need for internships, etc.
 - Each SUNY microcredential should deliver sufficient skills, knowledge, and experience to facilitate someone obtaining a job, or advancing in a job, in a significant/priority industry for the region or state.
 - Microcredentials for currently enrolled students should offer skillsets complementary to their major that recognize mastery of complex skills to support their ability to get a job or to prepare for graduate school.
- Matriculated and non-matriculated students should complete an application to sign up for a microcredential so that their persistence and completion can be followed and to ensure that successful completion is recognized through the award of a digital badge and transcript notation.

As revised, New Paltz's policy ensures alignment with the SUNY Trustees' policy, answers common questions, and facilitates consistent messages and progress toward goal completion.

SUNY New Paltz Revised Policy

Types of Microcredentials

A. Credit Bearing

While SUNY credit-bearing microcredentials typically consist of a minimum of two courses and contain a minimum of 6 credits and no more than 15 credits, exceptions to this range of credit hours may be appropriate to the purpose and needs of the microcredential.

Credit-bearing microcredentials have learning outcomes, assessments, and result in student work product.

A credit-bearing microcredential may stack into an existing academic certificate and/or degree and can also stack together with other microcredentials in a series that all stack to a certificate or degree.

Where applicable, specific skills and competencies to be mastered should be identified and aligned to business and industry need and regional and state priorities.

Students who earn credit-bearing microcredentials receive a notation on their transcript upon completion and receive a digital badge.

Credit-bearing microcredentials may not be given a name that resembles that of a SUNY New Paltz certificate or degree program registered by NYSED.

B. Non-Credit

A non-credit microcredential is a professional and/or educational development opportunity for students or community partners, often for those who already have degrees, are seeking specialized skills, and/or are part of a group needing a specific skillset.

Non-credit microcredentials consist of specific learning experience(s), which lead to attainment of multiple discrete, assessable skills and/or competencies.

Non-credit microcredentials have learning outcomes, assessments and produce student work.

Non-credit microcredentials may advance an existing non-credit curriculum, assessing it to stack into an existing certificate or degree program via the [award-of-academic-credit-by-evaluation process \(i.e., prior learning assessment\)](#) or an articulation agreement.

Students who earn non-credit-bearing microcredentials receive a notation on their transcript upon completion and receive a digital badge.

Non-credit microcredentials may not be given a name that resembles that of a SUNY New Paltz certificate or degree program registered by NYSED.

Notably, while recognition of participation, community building or soft-skill development alone can be an important part of the student experience, those things are not, by definition, microcredentials and are excluded from this policy. Likewise, many professional development and continuing education activities, although worthwhile and valuable, may not be appropriate non-credit microcredentials as per this policy. Such activities may result in badging or other participation and/or completion recognition but are not included on the transcript and are not treated as microcredentials under this policy.

Potential Target Audiences for Microcredentials

- Current Students
- Prospective Students
- Adult Learners
- Alumni
- Business/Industry Partners
- K-12 Partners
- Community Partners
- Faculty/Staff

General Requirements for New Paltz Microcredentials

- SUNY New Paltz microcredentials should align with [SUNY guiding principles](#) as noted above and as updated by SUNY.
- Anyone is eligible to take a credit or non-credit microcredential. At the discretion of faculty, the eligibility requirements might include a minimum GPA or other criteria.
- Microcredentials are awarded upon successful completion of their specific requirements.
- Microcredentials may be within a single disciplinary area or interdisciplinary.
- There may be cases where a course in a given microcredential has a pre-requisite. For non-matriculated students, it may be possible to consider advanced standing based on experience or education or other documented prior learning.
- A minimum grade of C- is required in all courses taken for the microcredential with an overall GPA of 2.0 for the microcredential program unless a higher minimum grade and/or GPA is specified.
- Microcredentials should generally adhere to Carnegie time-on-task standards as articulated in the [SUNY New Paltz Semester/Credit Hour Policy](#).
- Microcredentials are covered under SUNY's Seamless Transfer policy. For transfer outside of SUNY, courses in credit-bearing microcredentials will be considered according to the receiving institutions' transfer policies.
- Grandfather Policy: No course may be applied to a microcredential that was completed more than three years prior to their application. Departments may determine any length requirement under three years as specific disciplines deem necessary.