Unified Credential Framework

Western Governors University's Unified Credential Framework (UCF) enables a unified system of WGU-issued, credit-bearing credentials where learners earn incremental value as they make their way to higher-level credentials. This framework supports Skills-Denominated Credentials (SDCs), including our competency-based, skills-tagged, and shareable degrees, and a new system of micro-credentialing high-demand, labor market-relevant skills and competencies.

UCF Criteria

Value

Achievements elevate value and offer meaningful pathways to opportunity.

Relevance

Achievements recognize professional and personal competencies and skills explicitly aligned to high-demand workforce needs.

Integrity

Achievements require verification of competence, which is assessed using authentic, real-world workforce use cases.

Transparency

Achievements are issued in open standards, allowing for seamless portability between organizations.

Key Learner Segments

The framework includes criteria for each credential or micro-credential that may be issued at WGU to support our key learner segments: **Rising Talent**, **Advancing Talent**, **Stranded Talent**, **Professional Up-skillers and Re-skillers**.

Credentials

Degree and Certificate Programs are issued by WGU via diplomas and certificates.

Degree Programs

- Prepares learners for employment and advancement in a specified career trajectory or for more advanced study
- Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's

Certificate Programs

- Prepares learners for employment and advancement in a specified career trajectory, licensure, or for more advanced study, and are typically smaller in size than a traditional degree program
- Endorsement, Post-Baccalaureate, Post-Master's

Micro-Credentials

Micro-credentials are issued by WGU via digital badges.

Specializations

- Prepares learners for various specified jobs and skills within a professional sector or academic domain
- Standalone, stackable, embedded, or concentration of a degree program

Certificates

- Prepares learners for a particular job or set of professional or academic skills and tasks
- Standalone, stackable, embedded, or concentration of a degree program