

## Guidelines for Graduate Badges

Modified from the undergraduate guidelines (Academic Affairs Committee)

**DEFINITION:** Alternative pathways<sup>1</sup> are 1) less than a degree, such as credit bearing certificates and badges; 2) tools to evaluate a student's ability to demonstrate competency in discrete areas, and 3) combined together, can fulfill the requirements of certificate programs that meet workforce demands and match the mission and culture of Wichita State University.<sup>2</sup> As a standalone option, they are not degrees.

*Badges: Typically .5 credit hours and demonstrate competency in discrete areas. Amounts more than .5 will need to be justified in the proposal and increase in increments of .25 (e.g. .75, 1.25). The minimum requirement for instruction for a .5 credit hour badge, would be 7.5 hours of direct instruction and 15 hours of out-of-classroom work per the Federal definition and assignment of credit hours.*

**POTENTIAL STUDENTS** include:

Students seeking skills or knowledge in a focused area for which we have no degree.  
Students seeking more flexibility in obtaining just-in-time credentialing, such as licensed professionals, who would use badges as proof of updated skills and knowledge.

**COURSE WORK:** Badges can be awarded for approved academic work completed in workshops, short courses, or for parts of a regular course, such as modules or units, in which there may be a need or it may be useful to award credit for less than a full credit hour. Upon successful completion, badge credits would be awarded as "badge



information about the program on the university's website and in materials promoting the alternative pathway:

- Tuition and fees;

- Costs of books, supplies, room and board;

- On-time completion rate for students completing the requirements;

- Job placement rates; and

- The median loan debt incurred by students who completed the program.

~~6/2/2017~~ routing sheet with the appropriate departmental, college, graduate school, and university signatures.