The Credential Registry and CTDL

There are 1 million credentials offered in the U.S. With so many to choose from—and without widespread adoption of standards for comparing and evaluating them—people get lost and lose out on opportunity. Together, we and our partners are working to build a linked open data network that everyone can access for timely and trusted information about credentials.

CREDENTIALS

Credentials include diplomas, badges, certificates, licenses, apprenticeships, certifications, and degrees of all types and levels that represent key competencies signaling what a person knows or can do.

WHAT: TRANSPARENCY

Credential transparency makes essential information about credentials and competencies public, easily accessible, and actionable so that credentials can be better understood and pursued based on what it takes to earn them, what they represent, and the jobs they can lead to.

HOW: TECHNOLOGY

Credential transparency is made possible by technology. The Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) schema allows us to catalog, organize, and compare credentials and related information. Credential data from authoritative sources using CTDL is openly available in the Credential Registry for anyone, anytime, anywhere to search and compare credentials.

WHY: PATHWAYS

The easier it is to access and use comparable information about credentials, the easier it is for people to find the most effective paths to learn the right skills and find the best jobs. Credential transparency ensures equitable information about quality pathways to opportunities, makes those pathways discoverable, and empowers individuals along the way.

WE CAN

- more clearly describe the credentials we offer, their quality and value, and how they meet the needs of individuals, businesses, and the community.
- discover new and better pathways to a better future!
- understand the availability, costs, time, and value of the different credentials available to us.
- reveal credential opportunities aligned to workforce needs.
- better understand our credential data using CTDL, then we can all use it to better navigate!
- see how best to get where we’re going.
- reveal credential opportunities to help people meet their economic needs.

Value

Skills

Transparency helps us be more efficient and flexible by using data to describe jobs and align opportunity.

The information helps me find quality credentials that meet my needs!

We know the skills linked to specific jobs.

How can I prepare for a good job?

We're doing our part to create and sustain value from transparency!

We can help you find the right skills and paths to a better future!

Credential transparency allows us to reveal credential opportunities aligned to workforce needs.

If we share our credential data using CTDL, then we can all use it to better navigate!

Credential Registry data shows us the path from learning to credentials to careers!

Credential transparency illuminates paths to a better future:

CREDENTIAL PROVIDERS

EMPLOYERS

LEARNERS & WORKERS

POLICYMAKERS & THOUGHT LEADERS