

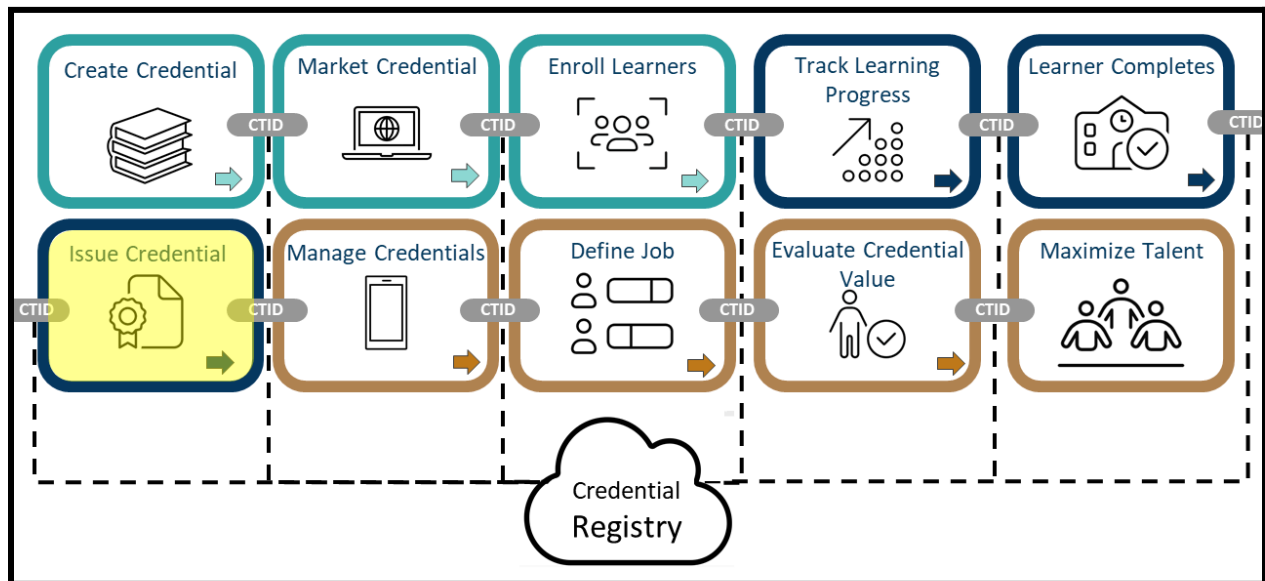


Lifecycle Phase: Issue Credential

The 'issue credentials' phase provides individuals with recognized proof of their achievements, which is essential for advancing their career opportunities. Documented Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) information provides continuing value for both credential earners and employers, via transparency and clarity about the credentials' meaning and value. CTDL can communicate essential details about an issued credential, such as its type, assessments, competencies, and the issuing organization.

When credentials are issued digitally, this information can be integrated directly into the credentials, facilitating easy management and storage in digital wallets or similar technologies, such as by using the credential's Credential Transparency Identifier (CTID) to link to detailed CTDL data about the credential. This integration not only simplifies the storage and presentation of credentials for the earners but also enriches the evaluation process for those assessing the credentials, ensuring that the credentials' significance can be fully understood and appreciated.

Issuing Credentials in the Context of Credential Lifecycle Phases



Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL): Key Data

- **Credential Transparency Identifier (CTID):** A globally unique identifier for connecting credential information across all lifecycle phases. When included in a digitally issued credential, both the credential earners and any stakeholders they share the credential with, such as hiring managers, can access comprehensive CTDL information.
- **Credential:** Signals all of the ways organizations document learners' achievements, including diplomas, badges, micro-credentials, certificates, licenses, apprenticeships, certifications, and degrees. All types of educational and occupational credentials are supported by CTDL.

Call to Action for Using CTDL When Issuing Credentials

- Describe credentials using CTDL and embed CTID links in all of your issued credentials so that clear, meaningful information about the credentials in CTDL is both human-readable and machine-actionable for integrations across applications and phases of the credentials lifecycle.

Issuing Credentials: Who, What, and Where

Transparency for issued credentials is fundamental. Without it, the meaning of achievements is absent and accomplishments can be undervalued. CTDL ensures data consistency across various organizations and roles, highlighting the true value of individuals' achievements. This promotes student success by enhancing recognition, supporting career advancement, and unlocking further educational opportunities.

Different types of credentials are issued by multiple organizations across multiple roles. Here is a breakdown of where credentials are issued, by whom, and the types of credentials:

Who	What (CTDL Credential Types)	Where
Principal, Superintendent	diploma, badge, certificate	High Schools
President, Chancellor, Registrar	associate degree, certificate, micro-credential, badge	Community Colleges
President, Director, Registrar	certificate, badge	Technical & Vocational Schools
President, Provost, Registrar	bachelor's degree, master's degree, doctoral degree, certificate, badge	Universities & Colleges
Executive Director	certificate, badge	Community Organizations & Nonprofits
Chief Academic Officer	certificate, badge	Online Education Providers
Executive Director	certificate, badge, certifications	Professional Associations
Certification Board Chair	certification	Industry Certification Bodies
Licensing Board Chair	license	Government Agencies
Chief Learning Officer, Human Resource Director	certificate, badge	Employers & Corporate Training

Key Questions to Address

1. Once achievements have been confirmed, how will the credential be issued so that useful CTDL information can be used to benefit the earner and employers?

2. How will CTDL information and the offering's CTID be included in the issued credential?
3. What CTDL connections to industry competencies and skills can be documented to increase the career relevance of an issued credential?
4. What CTDL connections to occupations and jobs can be documented to increase the career relevance of an issued credential?
5. When credentials and achievements are updated, how will the CTIDs for previously issued credentials be maintained and their lifecycle status updated?

Important Uses

- **Learning and Employment Records (LERs):** Issuing credentials and other achievements in a standard digital format that supports embedding CTDL so that earners can collect, control, and share educational, professional, and employment information.
- **Competency and Skill Alignment:** Using CTDL to document the competencies and skills demonstrated for issued credentials so that individuals discover aligned jobs, work roles, and occupations.



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