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A Conversation about Alternative Credentials



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Agenda

Introduction

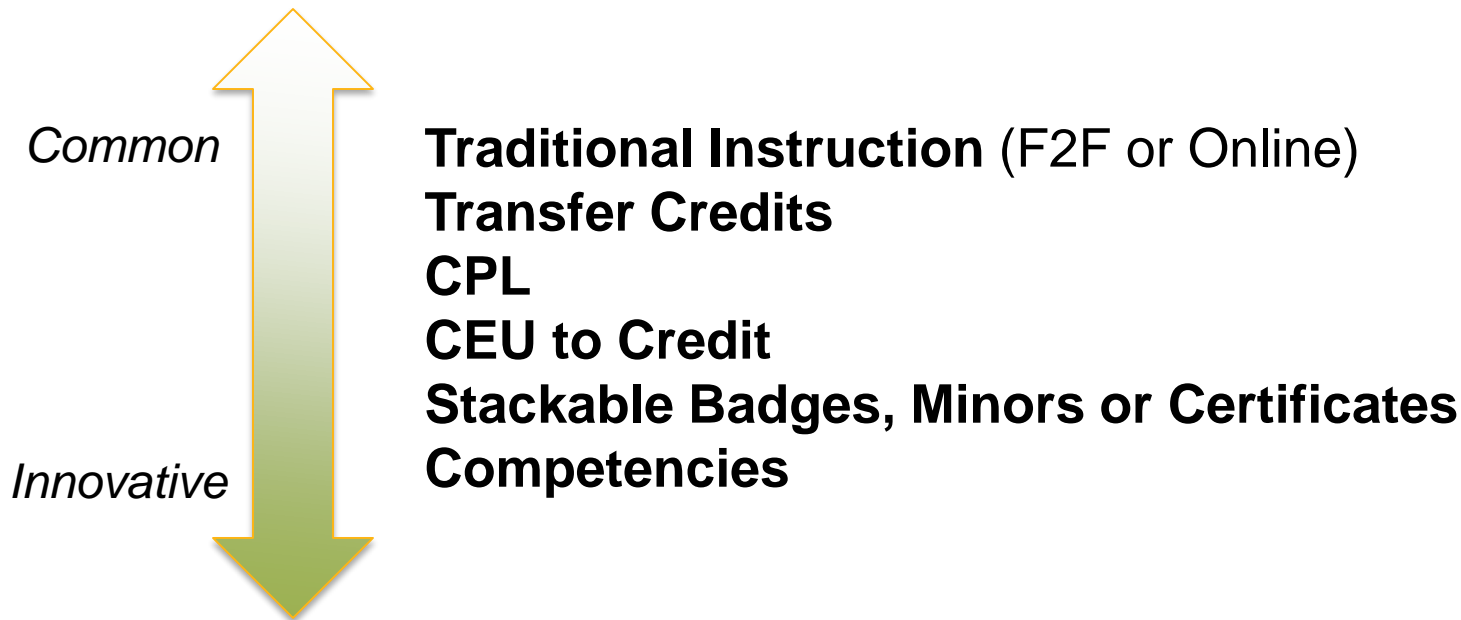
Current Trends

Pilot Badge Course

What makes sense for you?

Alternative Credentials Conversation

- Why are we even discussing this?
- Because of the adult learner.




National Trends

Drivers:

- Workforce needs
- Scheduling needs from working adults
- Need to assess competency, especially prior learning

Competency-Based Education Network
(C-BEN) <http://www.cbenetwork.org/>

National Trends

- Nationally, institutions are seeking curricular innovations for the adult learner:
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- Badges
 - Stackable Credentials
 - Competency-Based Education Models
 - Personalized Learning
 - Credit for Prior Learning

Schools using CBE

Public

- Western Governors University
- Northern Arizona University
- University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee

Private

- University of Southern New Hampshire – *College for America*
- Brandman University
- Capella University
- StraighterLine

HLC – Evaluation of New CBE Programs on Hold:

On December 19, 2014, the U.S. Department of Education issued a Dear Colleague Letter (GEN-14-23) that set new expectations for accreditors with regard to the approval of direct assessment and competency-based programs. In addition, HLC has been under audit by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Department of Education related to its review of direct assessment programs, and new expectations for HLC's approval protocols are arising out of the audit process.

The U.S. Department of Education has made a commitment to provide clearer guidelines by June 1, 2015. To that end, HLC has determined it must wait until receiving those guidelines before changing its protocols for review of direct assessment and establishing new protocols for review and approval of competency-based education. HLC will provide new protocols as quickly as possible after we receive the guidelines from the Department.

<https://www.ncahlc.org/Monitoring/institutional-change.html>

For-Credit Badges



Pilot Badge Course

- From 3 credit hour course to a 6 competency sequence
 - Don't do this: break the original course into 6 chunks
 - Do this: define the competencies the course delivers and build 6 units around those competencies



Pilot Badge Course

- Important Considerations:
 - Course Texts
 - Break up major assignments
 - Timeframe
 - Building Interactions in a Badge Course
 - How will instructors be compensated?
 - Will these courses be tied to your semester schedule?



Pilot Badge Course

- Our Case: Care of Populations
 - Original Course Design:
 - 3 credit hours, fully online course
 - Structured around a textbook (chapters/unit, etc)
 - 1 major research assignment

Pilot Badge Course

- Our Case: Care of Populations
 - Badge Course Design
 - 6 Online Badge courses, each worth ½ credit
 - Each Badge covers a specific competency* (Policy Development, Cultural Competency, Community Dimensions, Public Health Sciences, Financial Planning, Leadership and Systems Thinking)
 - **per the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice. No, really, that's they're name. I promise.*
 - Two other competencies (Analytical/Assessment skills and Communication Skills) are considered essential throughout
 - Content: SME Built or OER (Open Educational Resources)
 - Staged Assignments (major assignment broken into 5 parts and a capstone)

What makes sense for you?

- Have a conversation with:
 - Faculty
 - Students
 - Campus business units (Registrar, Financial Aid)
 - Industry
- Join the conversation now...