



# WHAT ARE MICRO-CREDENTIALS?

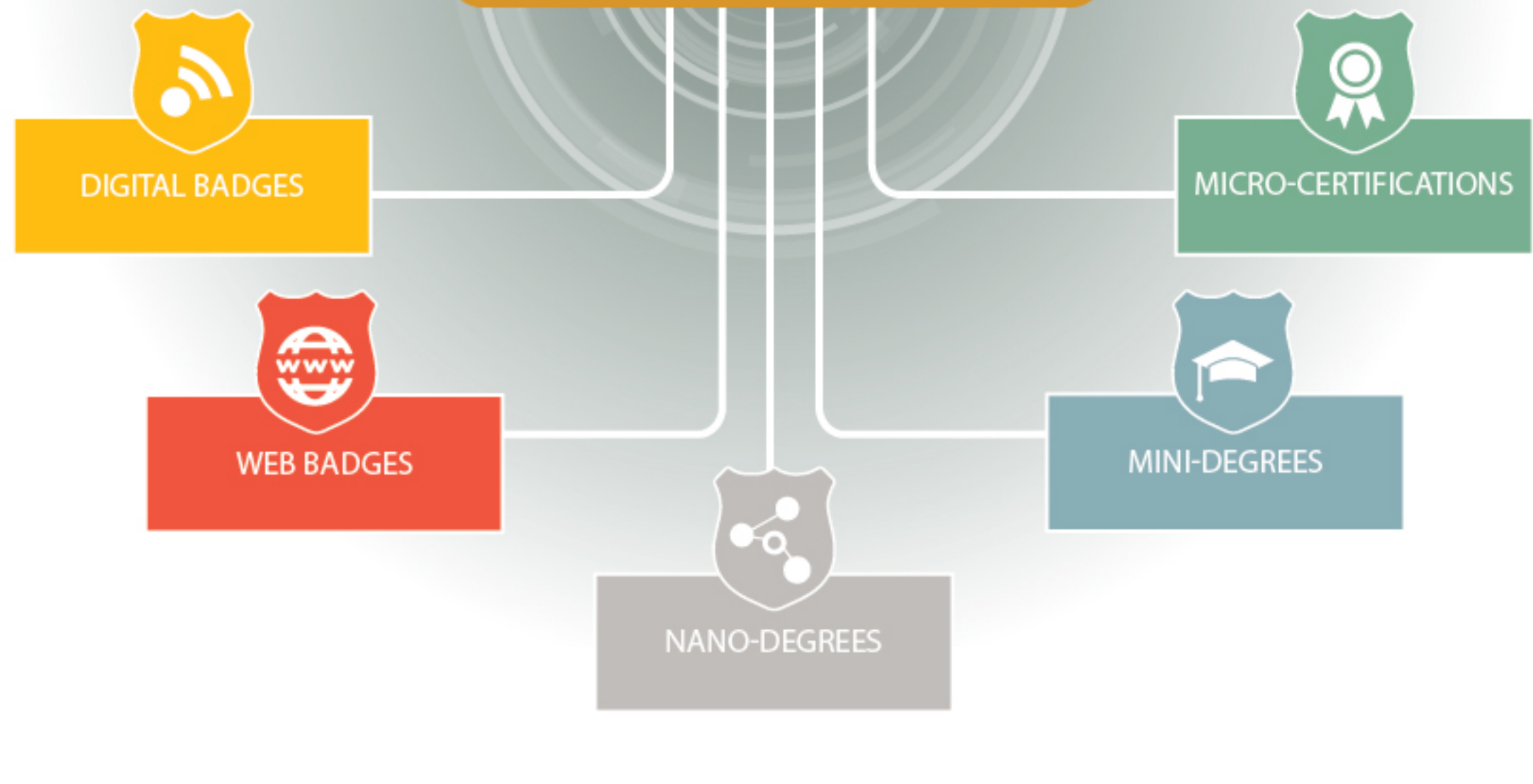
Nowadays, most employers expect their workers to continually seek out learning opportunities. Micro-credentials offer students and working professionals alike a way to bulk up their resumes with field-specific skills.

## WHAT ARE THEY?

Micro-credentials are like certifications. Students or professionals take courses and develop specific skills in certain fields. This could include topics like:<sup>(1)</sup>

- Teaching writing in K-12 classrooms
- Leading effective business meetings
- Customer service e-mail etiquette
- Applying leadership skills in the workplace
- Front-end web development
- ...and thousands more.

Micro-credentials are also sometimes called:<sup>(2)</sup>

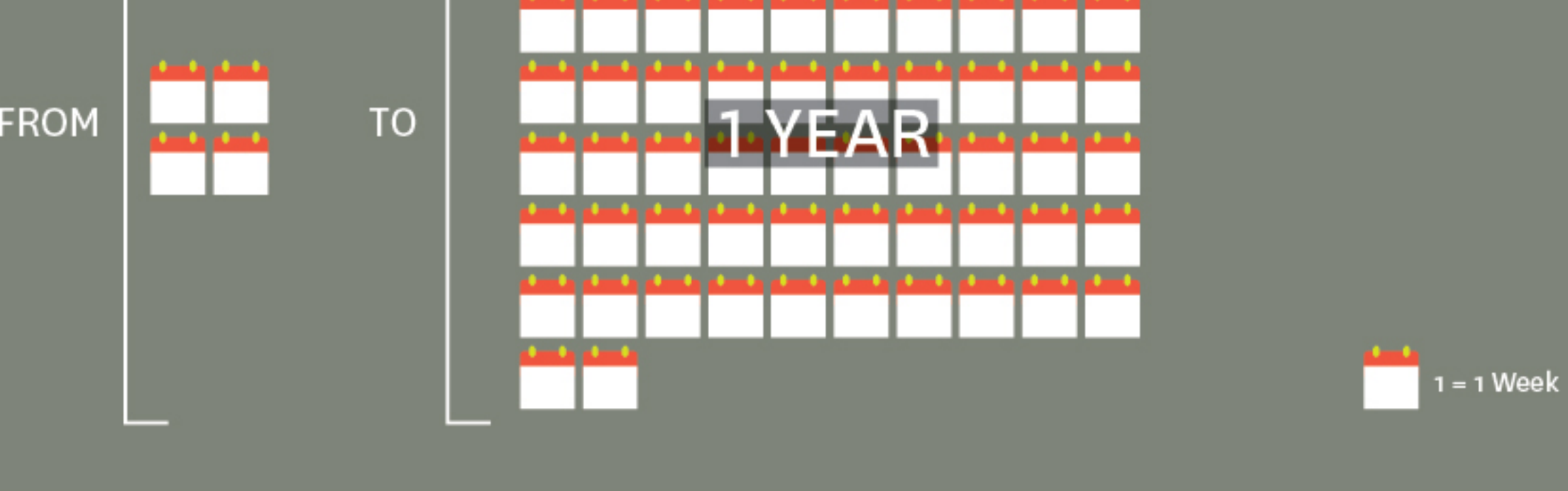


## HOW ARE THEY EARNED?

Earning a micro-credential is like taking a shortened version of a college course. Some are online, some are in a classroom setting. For a badge, you might be asked to:<sup>(3)</sup>

- COMPLETE A NUMBER OF ASSIGNMENTS
- ATTEND LECTURES/ SEMINARS
- PRESENT A PORTFOLIO OF WORK ON THE SUBJECT
- PASS ASSESSMENTS OR SKILL TESTS
- ATTEND NATIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES
- DISPLAY APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE IN A WORK SETTING

Earning a micro-credential can take anywhere from four weeks to a year, depending on the skill being developed and expectations of the course.<sup>(4)</sup>



Sites that offer micro-credentials<sup>(5)</sup>

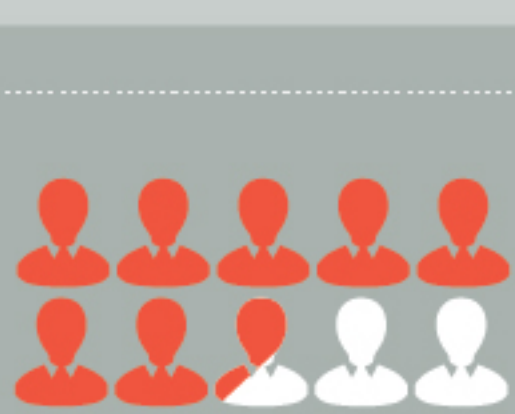
- Openbadges.org
- Educase.edu
- edX.org
- Generalassembly.ly
- DavinciCoders.com
- Udacity.com

## ARE MICRO-CREDENTIALS IMPORTANT?

Employers and employees both seem to be in favor of gaining skills for professional development.



In a recent survey of human resource managers across different industries: 95% were interested in the micro-credentials of potential hires.<sup>(6)</sup>



76%

Percentage of employees who say they want opportunities for career growth<sup>(7)</sup>

Rise of spending in training and development by employers in 2014<sup>(7)</sup>

15% 2014

2013

### SOURCES

1. <http://study.com>
2. <http://altcred.org>
3. <http://study.com>
4. <http://www.usnews.com>
5. <http://www.higher-education-marketing.com>
6. <http://crl.acrl.org>
7. <http://blog.clearcompany.com>