



NCTRC Organizational Digital Badge and Associated Micro-Credential Overview

National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification® (NCTRC®) issues digital badges associated with micro-credentials as a direct result of NCTRC pre-approved continuing education session content that meets NCTRC Standards and is related to the NCTRC Job Analysis. All digital badges are backed by NCTRC - the premier credentialing organization for the profession of therapeutic recreation.

Do you want to showcase your continuing education sessions to recreational therapists, activity professionals, and practitioners from a variety of professions?

Applying for organizational digital badges and associated micro-credentials through NCTRC shows your commitment to providing lifelong learners the tools necessary to achieve academic and professional goals, while also helping you establish yourself as an innovative and premier source for continuing education. Open to professionals across various fields, these badges highlight your commitment to excellence and professional growth.

Read the information below to learn how to partner with NCTRC to offer digital badges for NCTRC-approved micro-credentials - secure, web-enabled credentials that showcase verified achievements.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Organizations and continuing education providers must first apply for and receive NCTRC pre-approval of continuing education session content to proceed with an application for an organizational digital badge and associated micro-credential through NCTRC.

Any continuing education session content that is pre-approved by NCTRC is eligible to be included in the creation of a digital badge associated with an NCTRC approved micro-credential.

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HOW IT WORKS

- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between NCTRC and the applying organization/continuing education provider is required in order to begin the process.
- Once an MOU is approved and final, organizations and continuing education providers may apply to NCTRC to develop a digital badge associated with an NCTRC approved micro-credential using continuing education session content which is pre-approved by NCTRC.
- Complete the **NCTRC Organizational Digital Badge and Associated Micro-Credential Application**. Submit it to nctrc@nctrc.org.
 - Please open the application link above to review the fee structure associated with the application. Fees are due via the NCTRC CC Authorization form at time of applying.
- Questions about the application process? An NCTRC Credentialing Specialist will be happy to meet with you to provide additional information, including resources and links that will help you complete the application. Email nctrc@nctrc.org.
- Applications received by NCTRC are reviewed within 30 days. If approved, an NCTRC Credentialing Specialist will communicate approval and provide next steps regarding the design and creation of the digital badge associated with the NCTRC approved micro-credential.
- NCTRC uses [Credly by Pearson](#) to create the digital badges associated with the approved micro-credentials. Each NCTRC digital badge is uniquely linked and hosted on a secure and reliable online digital credential network.
- Once a digital badge is finalized, NCTRC will provide the continuing education provider with a digital marketing package (including graphics and publicity statements) and a digital badge communication guide for you to utilize with consumers and earners.

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- The NCTRC digital badge communication guide will provide information and a framework on how to promote the digital badge associated with the NCTRC approved micro-credential – saving you time and effort.
- The NCTRC digital marketing package includes digital marketing tools, publicity statements, and graphics – valuable resources to help you get started when advertising the badge through your website, social media, and email marketing campaigns.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- NCTRC has partnered with digital badging provider, Credly, to develop and maintain our digital badging program.
 - Go online to NCTRC-Badges-Credly to access a current list of NCTRC digital badges, including the collection of badges associated with NCTRC approved micro-credentials.
- Digital badges are issued by NCTRC via Credly (admin@credly.com).
 - Credly emails earners with notification that they have received a digital badge, and instructions on how to claim it, including suggestions on how to share their badge on social media, in email signatures, and more!
- Continuing education providers are responsible for issuing continuing education credit and certificates of completion to earners who have completed the NCTRC pre-approval continuing education session content that aligns with the digital badge associated with an NCTRC approved micro-credential. Earners will need this certificate of completion to apply to NCTRC for issuance of the associated digital badge.
- Once an individual has successfully completed continuing education session(s)/course(s) to earn an NCTRC approved micro-credential, the earner is eligible to apply to NCTRC for the associated digital badge.
- Earners may apply to NCTRC for issuance of their digital badge in two ways:
 - Via the **MY NCTRC LOGIN** portal
 - Email: nctrc@nctrc.org

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VALUE OF BADGES THROUGH NCTRC

- Learners today are looking to stand out from the crowd and impress employers, recruiters, and colleagues. Digital badges are becoming a valuable tool for career development as they are user-friendly and accessible – providing easy access to an individual's professional development accomplishments.
- Earners are assured that a digital badge associated with an NCTRC approved micro-credential is a direct result of NCTRC pre-approved continuing education session content that meets NCTRC Standards and is directly related to the NCTRC Job Analysis.
- Digital badges associated with NCTRC approved micro-credentials are available for individuals from any profession to earn.
- Individuals seeking employment or promotion are looking to differentiate themselves from others in the field – digital badges have a true purpose or value for these individuals as they shine a spotlight on their skills.
- Earners can use digital badges in email signatures, digital resumes, and on social media sites such as LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter to showcase their achievement.
- When earners share their badge, the badge contains an active hyperlink back to the continuing education provider's pre-approved CE course information on their website.
- NCTRC has a variety of resources to help earners with the badging process. For example, check out the **NCTRC Badge Earner Guide**.
- NCTRC's badging program handles the issuance of badges, making it one less thing for the continuing education provider to handle on their end.

We believe that digital badges associated with NCTRC approved micro-credentials will further enhance your professional portfolio, provide opportunities to showcase NCTRC pre-approved CE content with various professional communities, and revolutionize the way professionals share their skills and achievements!

Email nctrc@nctrc.org to get started today!

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