



UMS Micro-Credential Initiative FY25 Annual Report

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

About Us

The University of Maine System's (UMS) Micro-Credential Initiative supports the development and implementation of micro-credentials across the system's seven universities and the School of Law. UMS micro-credentials are composed of digital badges that highlight the earner's competencies in the skills needed for today's workforce. They are offered to UMS students, youth, and as professional development opportunities for individuals in the workforce to advance or increase their employability. Micro-credentials earned through the UMS are verified, evidence-based, and shareable.

Governance

Our [Steering Committee](#) includes representation from each University, guiding our priorities in alignment with the UMS Strategic Plan, 2023-28, and the Board of Trustees Strategic Priorities (2018).

Email: ums.mc@maine.edu

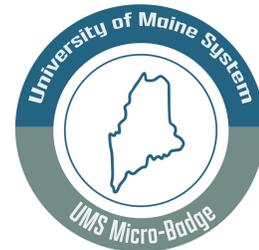
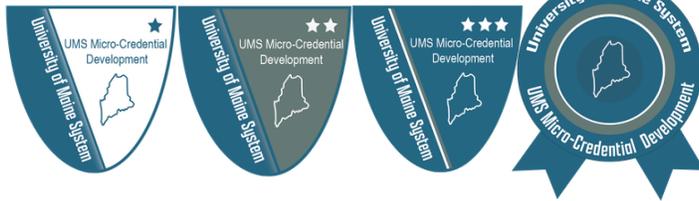
Website: maine.edu/micro-credentials

FY25 by the numbers

In FY25, learners chose from:

52

Micro-credential Pathways



+

30

Standalone
Micro-Badges

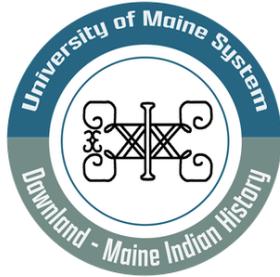
116

Micro-Credential
Pathways Completed

2,540

Competency-Based Badges
Issued

Top Badges Awarded:



264 Issued



206 Issued

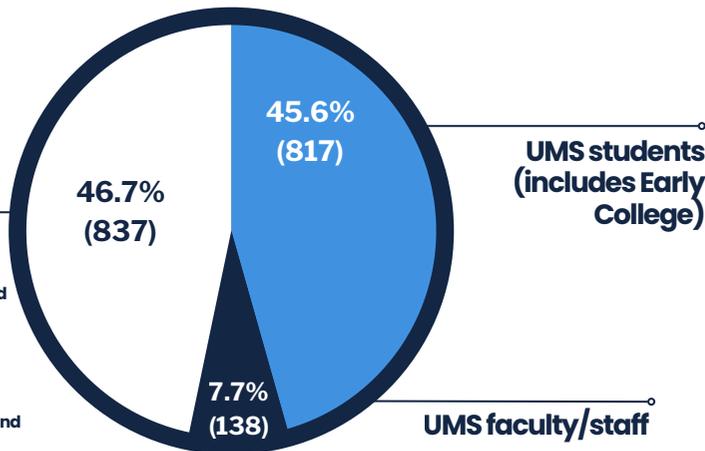


151 Issued

Who Earned Badges?

1792

Learners Earning **at least 1** Badge



817

UMS students earned **at least 1** badge



At least 1 badge is embedded in an academic course or co-curricular program at each of UMS' 7 Universities, up from 5 in FY24.

FY25 Highlights

Fast Facts: FY25 Accomplishments

The first Cluster Micro-Credential, **Nursing Education**, was launched at USM.

- The 12 graduate course credits earned can count toward a master's degree or post-master's graduate certificate.
- A sub-committee drafted a Cluster Micro-Credential policy during spring 2025; submitted to University provosts.

The **Career Prepared Micro-Credential** was revised, adding three National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Competency micro-badges.



Mapping the Impact: Newly developed GIS skills aid in western Maine emergency preparedness and resilience efforts

Maine Geospatial Institute, a UMS initiative that unites the geospatial technologies community – scientists, researchers, students, educators, industry leaders, and other key partners– launched the Introduction to GIS Mapping Micro-Credential in February 2025.

Since then, 125 learners have earned the foundational Level 1 badge, and over 50 have completed the full micro-credential.

Sara Bickford, Deputy Director of Somerset County Emergency Management Agency, put her new technical skills to work modernizing western Maine's community responses to flooding by converting damage reports and personal accounts into a sophisticated interactive map. [Learn more about her efforts here.](#)



A Leader in Micro-Credential Innovation

UMS participated in UPCEA's Credential Innovation Consortium over two years, resulting in two reports.

- The playbook, [Building Capacity, Expanding Pathways: Accelerating the Growth of Credential Innovation in Higher Education](#), serves as a model for institutions looking to solidify their non-degree micro-credential and digital badge strategy and was featured in [University Business](#).
- The final report, [Expanding Institutional Capacity for Employer Engagement in Credential Innovation Through a Consortium Approach](#), sparked the first-ever Virtual Forum on [Employer Engagement and Credential Innovation](#) and an emergent University-to-Business (U2B) Engagement Framework.

New UMS Micro-Credentials Launched in FY25

UMS Micro-Credentials leverage the expertise of research centers and faculty across the system, typically in response to a specific workforce need. Industry partners help identify high-demand skills, advise on content and delivery, and sponsor employees' training.

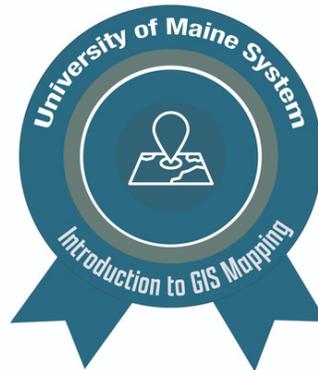
New Micro-Credential Pathways



4-H Foundations of Maple Sugaring Enterprise

UMaine Cooperative Extension

Partners with various Maine high schools and Career/Technical Education Centers, various maple sugar producers, and Pineland Farms.



Introduction to GIS Mapping

Maine Geospatial Institute (UMS)

Maine Emergency Management Agency, Greater Portland Council of Governments, and Sunrise County Economic Council all sponsored employees' fees.



Marine Touch Tank Technician

UMaine Cooperative Extension

Development supported by the Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research.



Nursing Education

USM School of Nursing (Cluster M-C pilot)

MaineHealth identified the workforce need and sponsored employee tuition.



Recirculating Aquaculture Systems

UMaine Cooperative Extension

Development supported by the Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research.



Oral Health Foundations

Children's Oral Health Network of Maine & MCD Global Health

Content was reviewed by UMS faculty (UMA Dental Program), per UMS M-C Initiative policy for external micro-credentials.



Scanning Electron Microscopy

UMaine Coordinated Operating Research Entities

Micro-Badges



Maine Gardener

UMaine Cooperative Extension



Maine Master Gardener Volunteer

UMaine Cooperative Extension



Resume and Cover Letter Advising Skills

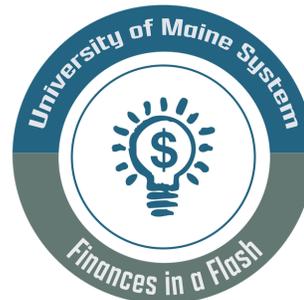
USM Career & Employment Hub



Business Resilience in a Flash

UMaine Cooperative Extension
with Maine Business School

Supported by the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS).



Finances in a Flash

UMaine Cooperative Extension
with Maine Business School

Supported by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)

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