



CREDENTIAL AS YOU GO

Objective & Principles

The Objective and Principles are part of the national initiative Cornerstones.

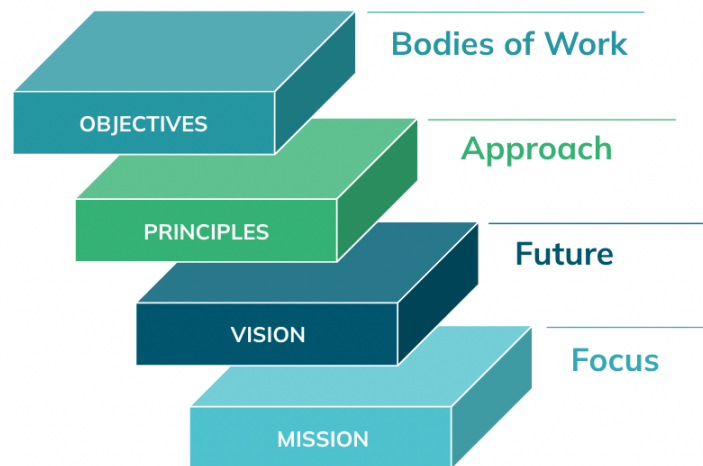
OBJECTIVE

To transform the U.S. legacy degree system to a nationally recognized incremental credentialing system.

PRINCIPLES

Incremental credentials should:

- **Increase equity and inclusion.** Credential As You Go centers on a commitment to use incremental credentials to increase postsecondary educational accessibility, attainment, and employment opportunities for all learners, especially those historically underserved by race/ethnicity, gender, age, disability, and income.
- **Be understandable and inclusive.** Incremental postsecondary credentials should reflect what holders know and can do, making them easy to understand for all audiences, including learners, employers, educators, workforce agencies, accreditors, and policymakers.
- **Be trusted.** Users must be able to rely on the representations of credentials, including their accuracy in documenting the credential holder's knowledge and skills and the usability of the credential to meet goals. Carry value. Each incremental credential should carry value in both finding employment and counting towards further learning.
- **Be interconnected.** Users of credentials (e.g., employers, educational institutions, learners, advisors), should understand how credentials connect and see multiple pathways to increase career and economic mobility.



- **Be incorporated into technology solutions.** Initiatives creating interoperable data standards and tools (e.g., enterprise systems/unit record data/auditing, portable comprehensive learner records, national collection systems, learning management systems) should include and embrace incremental credentialing.
- **Be founded in informed development by a community of stakeholders.** Diverse stakeholder engagement from faculty, student services, employers, practitioners, and learners, is crucial to developing high-quality incremental credentials based on evidence of the need and purpose for the credentials.
- **Be affordable.** Cost should not be a barrier to learners earning incremental credentials.
- **Be forward-relevant.** The design of incremental credentials should reflect the needs of the 21st Century workforce by expanding higher education's contributions to workforce development.