



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK

Education and Employment
Research Center

School of Management and Labor Relations

Noncredit Data Taxonomy 2.0: Lessons Learned and a Guide for States

State Noncredit Data Project (SNDP) National Learning Community Meeting
March 10, 2025

State Noncredit Data Project

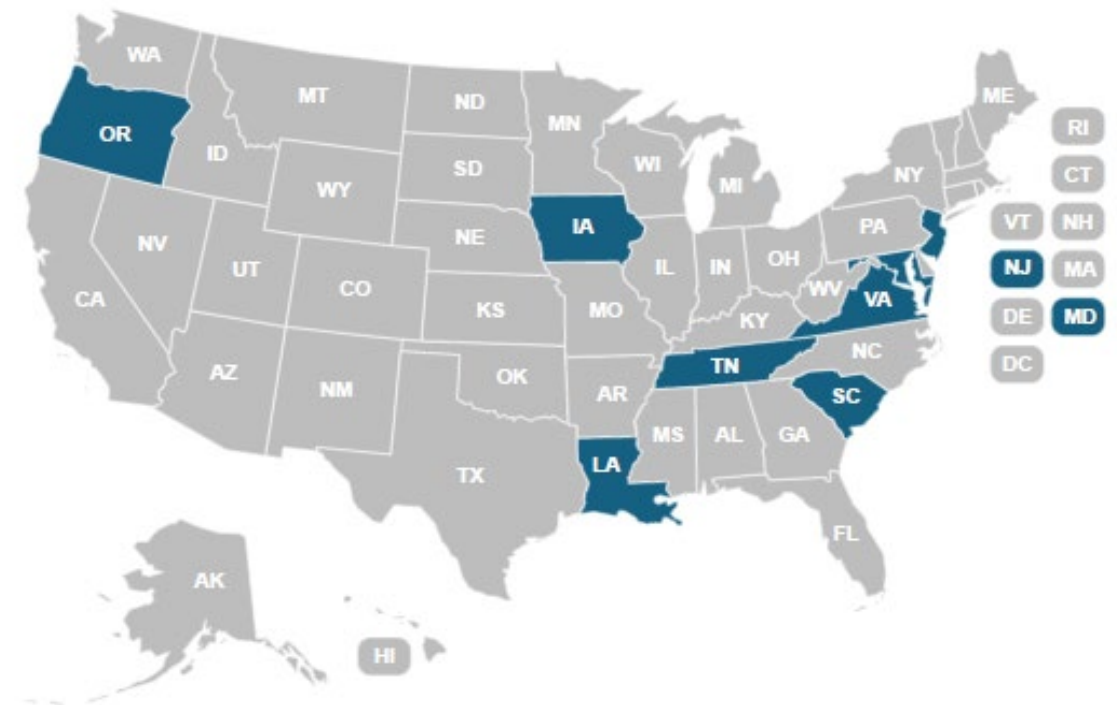
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Phase 1: IA, LA, VA

- Noncredit data inventory
- Capturing course/program level data
- Develop noncredit data taxonomy across states

Phase 2: MD, NJ, OR, SC, TN

- Established and emerging states
- National learning community



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Original Noncredit Data Taxonomy (1.0)

Purpose and Design captures data elements that pertain to an offering's focus and how it is delivered to students (field of study, noncredit type, program length, program delivery, associated credentials)

Outcomes captures data elements covering participants' academic, labor market, and non-degree credential outcomes (academic outcomes, labor market outcomes, non-degree credential outcomes)

Demographics and Enrollment includes data elements pertaining to identities of noncredit program participants and enrollment intensity of offerings (student demographics, enrollment, student identifiers)

Finance holds data elements that have to do with the way participants and offerings are funded (tuition, state funding, federal funding)

Field Testing: Lessons Learned Implementing the Taxonomy in SNDP Phase 2



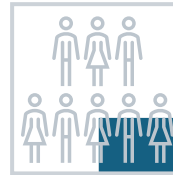
Purpose & Design

- Most data elements remained applicable such as the noncredit types, program length, mode of instruction
- Minor differences included MD's use of state-specific codes rather than CIP or SOC
- NJDOL data from the ETPL showed gaps regarding accessibility and student services (e.g., career advising, academic advising, childcare)



Outcomes

- Outcomes data remained mostly aspirational with Phase 2 states resulting in little need to expand outcomes in the taxonomy
- Some pockets of traction, however: MD's workforce completers data included quarterly earnings & NDCs; NJDOL data included completion & credential outcomes; TN CCs included data on alignment with industry certifications for many offerings; SC will begin capturing completion with next cycle



Demographics & Enrollment

- Data collection on headcount and contact hours generally consistent
- Significant gaps across the two phases in terms of demographics
- NJDOL presented additional detail such as citizenship, residency, disability status, foster care, etc.



Finance

- Phase 2 finance data were relatively sparse (no tuition, WIOA eligibility)
- Several Phase 2 states show noncredit eligibility for formula funding (MD, OR, SC, TN TCAT) and some eligibility for state grants
- Policy and state priorities seen as drivers of funding and intertwined with data elements

Additions in the Noncredit Data Taxonomy 2.0

Expanded data categories: accessibility and student services; provider information; more delineation of enrollment, demographics, and identifiers; WIOA

Addition of “policy” to the finance section

New data elements: nearly doubled data elements and operational definitions, now more than 90

Noncredit Data Taxonomy 2.0

Based on Multi-Phase,
Multi-State Noncredit Data
Inventory

Purpose and Design

- Field of Study
- Noncredit Type
- Program Length and **Admission**
- Delivery
- **Accessibility**
- **Provider Information**
- **Student Services**
- Associated Non-Degree Credentials

Outcomes

- Academic Outcomes
- Labor Market Outcomes
- Non-Degree Credential Outcomes

Enrollment & Demographics

- Enrollments
- Demographics
- Identifiers

Finance & **Policy**

- Tuition and **Student Costs**
- State and Federal Funding
- **WIOA Information**

*(New Components)

Sample Data Element Table

Table 3. Noncredit Outcomes: Data Elements and Definitions

Category	Subcategory	Operational Definitions
Academic Outcomes	Noncredit-to-Credit Transitions	Whether noncredit student enrolls in credit courses/programs
	Completion	Course/program completion data and type of available data (pass/fail, grades, complete/not complete, credential earned)
	Exit Date (Non-Completers)	Non-completers' date of last attendance
Labor Market Outcomes	Pre-Enrollment Employment	Student employment status before enrolling in offering
	Post-Enrollment Employment	Student employment status after enrolling in offering
	Pre-Enrollment Salary/Wage	Student salary/wage before enrolling in offering
	Post-Enrollment Salary/Wage	Student salary/wage after enrolling in offering
Non-Degree Credential Outcomes	Industry Certification	Student attainment of industry certification(s) “awarded by industry certification bodies” or “awarded for third-party, independent competency assessment”
	Occupational Licensure	Student attainment of license(s) “awarded by government agencies” or “awarded for meeting requirements of an occupation”
	College-Issued Certificate	Student attainment of certificate(s) offered by any entity (e.g., education providers). Certificates can be awarded for participation, completion, achievement, or by assessment.
	Microcredentials	Student attainment of microcredential(s), which “verify, validate, and attest that specific skills and/or competencies have been achieved. They differ from traditional degrees and certificates in that they are generally offered in shorter or more flexible time spans and tend to be more narrowly focused.”
	Apprenticeship	Student attainment of DOL-registered apprenticeship credential

^[1] Workcred, 2021.

^[2] Ibid.

^[3] Ibid.

^[4] Educause (2025). *Earn and display your microcredentials*. <https://www.educause.edu/microcredentialing/earn-and-display-your-microcredentials>

^[5] Apprenticeship USA, 2015.

Taxonomy Implications and Opportunities Across Levels and Sectors

Entity	Role in Noncredit Data Ecosystem	Current and Potential Contributions to the Noncredit Data Taxonomy	Potential Uses of the Noncredit Data Taxonomy
State Agencies and Associations	Govern, regulate, monitor noncredit data collection statewide	Taxonomy based on state CC data; project expansion to include university systems	Establish operational definitions and policy at state level to ensure consistency
Community/ Technical Colleges: Institutions	Delivery majority of noncredit; report data to state entity	Institution data typically more complete than state-level; institution input to refine	Engage in predicable data reporting; prepare for potential IPEDS and Workforce Pell
State Departments of Labor and Workforce	Oversee ETPL and WIOA; collect data on providers	Taxonomy 2.0 informed by NJDOL	Consistent data could help between labor and higher education
Universities	Deliver offerings through executive education and professional studies	University input would help applicability to sector	Engage in predicable data reporting; prepare for potential IPEDS reporting
State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS)	Can be repository for outcomes data useful across sectors; data sharing	Taxonomy 2.0 informed by input from one SLDS	Noncredit taxonomy across sectors could improve alignment
State Apprenticeship Agencies/Offices	Collect and oversee apprenticeship data through RAPIDS and state-specific systems	RAPIDS items may inform future iterations	Help align RAPIDS data and state-specific apprenticeship data
Private Training Providers	Deliver noncredit offerings	May collect different/additional data on noncredit compared with public providers	Expand or refine noncredit data collection process
Other State Gov (e.g., Governor's Offices)	Manage initiatives related to noncredit data in some states	May bring together data from across different agencies to inform the taxonomy	Taxonomy may guide data alignment across agencies and providers

How-To Guide for Engaging the Noncredit Data Journey

If your state has begun collecting noncredit data:

Step 1: Inventory current noncredit data.

Whether or not your state has begun data collection:

Step 2: Begin with essentials and build over time.

Step 3: Choose a data platform that allows for interconnectivity.

Step 4: Build data partnerships to collect outcomes.

Step 5: Engage statewide and national data ecosystems.

Learn more
about the *State
Noncredit Data
Project*

<https://sites.rutgers.edu/state-noncredit-data/>



*Noncredit Data
Taxonomy 2.0 and
Implementation Guide
for States: Lessons
Learned from Phase 2
of the State Noncredit
Data Project*

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