

# Boosting Research Proficiency:

## INTEGRATING MICROCREDENTIALS WITHIN CORE FACILITIES

Rebecca Fitch, MPH, PMP (PMTI)  
RCF PROGRAM COORDINATOR



The University of Texas at Austin  
**Research Core Facilities**  
*Vice President for Research, Scholarship  
and Creative Endeavors*

# Boosting Research Proficiency

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Micro-credentialing is becoming a powerful tool to enhance and validate specialized skills.

Tailored micro-credentials can elevate researcher proficiency and cultivate a culture of continuous learning.

- **Overview of Micro-credentialing**
- **Anatomy of a Digital Badge**
- **Application & Administration**
- **Badging Pathways**
- **Q&A/Discussion**

# A few questions...

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- 01** Are you familiar with the terms micro-credential and digital badge?
- 02** Is your institution supporting and utilizing digital badging?
- 03** Have you earned a digital badge or completed a micro-credentialing course or program?

# Overview

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## What are Digital Badges?

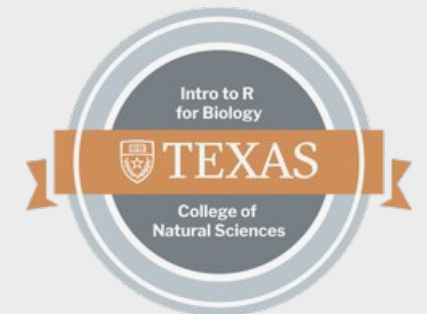
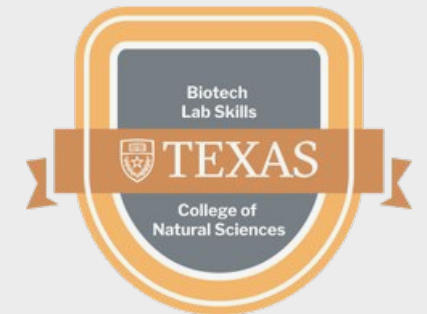
- Recognize skills, knowledge, and abilities beyond traditional degrees.
- Customizable to reflect achievements like workshops, certifications, or specialized training.

## Why They Matter:

- **Flexible:** Tailored to various learning experiences.
- **Shareable:** Display on LinkedIn, resumes, and websites.
- **Validated:** Unique URL verifies each badge's authenticity.

## How They Work:

- Awarded automatically via online platforms or manually by administrators.
- Provide a transparent and efficient way for employers to assess qualifications.



# Anatomy of a digital badge

The screenshot shows a digital badge page for 'Badging Quick Start' from Academic Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. The badge is a yellow circular seal with 'Badging Quick Start' and 'Academic Affairs' text, and a central banner with 'TEXAS'. The page includes a description of the badge, the recipient's name (Rebecca Fitch), the issue date (Mar 19, 2024), and details on earning criteria, tags, and narrative. Annotations include a large 'badge' watermark, a 'Share' button, a 'View JSON' button, and arrows pointing to the badge image, the 'Offered by' section, and the 'EARNING CRITERIA' section.

Backpack / Badging Quick Start

## Badging Quick Start

Provides learners with an introduction and overview to the UT Austin Digital Badging Initiative, including types and levels of badges, defining badges, the badge approval process, and awarding and sharing badges. Satisfies training requirements to participate in the UT Austin Digital Badging Initiative. [ less ]

Awarded to **Rebecca Fitch** ( rebecca.fitch@austin.utexas.edu )

Issued on: Mar 19, 2024 at 8:09 PM

Share

Offered by [Academic Affairs](#)

Verified

### Badge Details

**EARNING CRITERIA**  
Recipients must complete the earning criteria to earn this badge

Complete a five-module training course in Canvas.

**TAGS**

badging badge badge training quick start

**NARRATIVE**  
What the recipient did to earn this Badge


Awarded for completing requirements in group Badging Quick Start: Badging Quick Start Completion


We Issue [Open Badges](#)

View JSON

# Why use them?

 Address Unique Needs

 Create a Structured Framework

 Highlight Key Competencies

 Increase Visibility

 Promote Lifelong Learning

# Administration

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## Badging Administrator

The administrator is responsible for guiding requestors through the process and managing the overall program. They ensure everything runs smoothly from the request to the award phase.



## Badging Review Board or Oversight Process

This board or process ensures the integrity and value of the badges. They review criteria, ensure consistency across different departments, and safeguard the program's credibility.



## Badge Awarder

The person or team responsible for ensuring that badges are awarded only to individuals who meet the program's defined requirements.

# Badge



## Intermediate Microscopy

People that earn this badge have completed training on the compound microscope including operation, basic cleaning, and putting the microscope away. They know appropriate terminology describe microscope components, how to log problems, how to make a wet mount and how to examine specimens up to 400X.

Created on: Aug 19, 2022

Offered by  
[Las Positas College Biology Department](#)

### Badge Details

#### EARNING CRITERIA

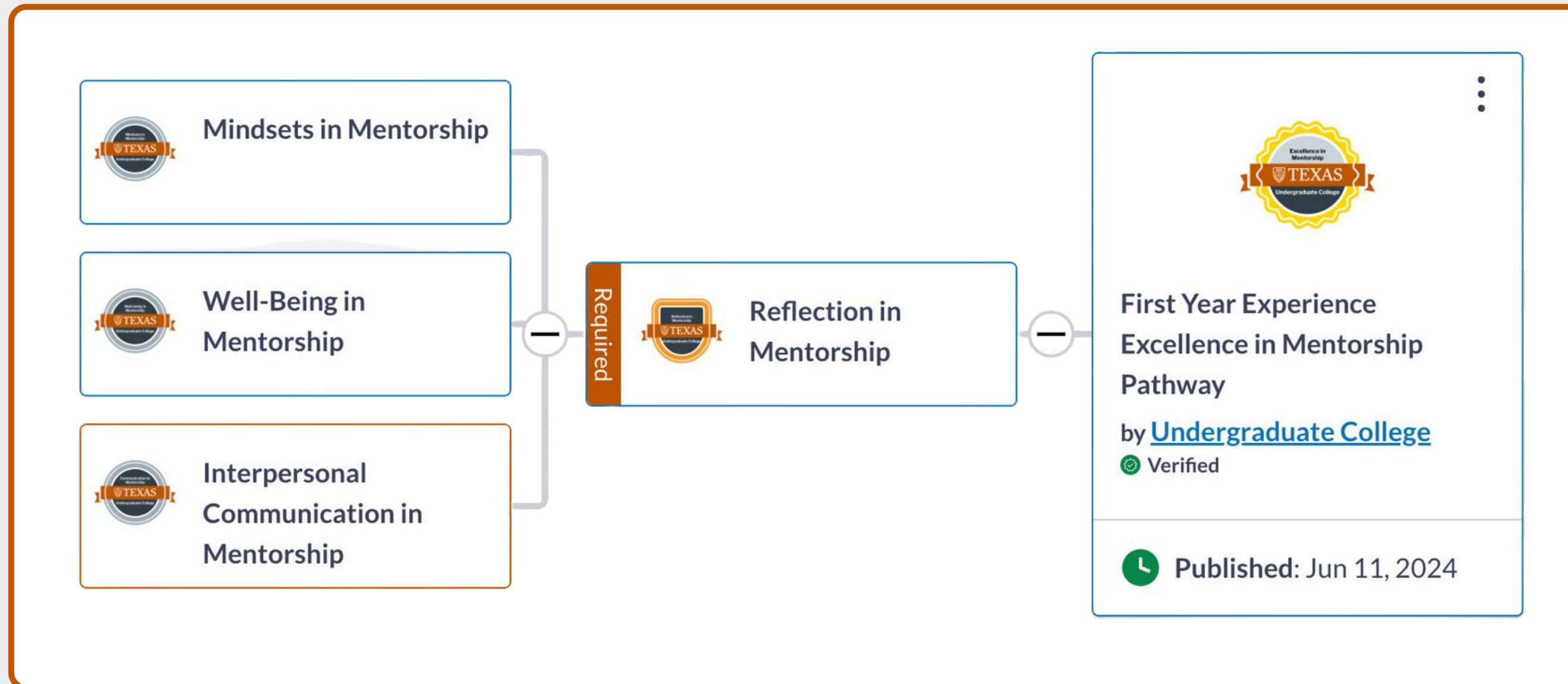
Recipients must complete the earning criteria to earn this badge

- Remove microscope from storage shelf with two hands: one on the handhold at the base and one on the arm
- Turn on the power and set light intensity knob
- Rotate observation tube and oculars so that oculars are centered on the stage
- Place slide in stage clip
- Center slide using adjustment knobs
- Adjust oculars to appropriate interpupillary distance and bring into initial focus using the 4X, then 10X, then 40X objective.
- Adjust the iris diaphragm to increase/decrease the amount of light
- Position eyepiece pointer
- Remove slides by reducing magnification and using stage slip lever
- Center stage, rotate oculars, turn off illuminator, wrap cord, put away
- Clean objectives only with optical lens paper
- Make wet mount slides by placing a drop of sample on the coverslip at a 45 degree angle to eliminate air bubbles
- Calculate magnification of a specific objective
- Troubleshoot lack of light on sample, slide not in focus, and dirty eyepiece.

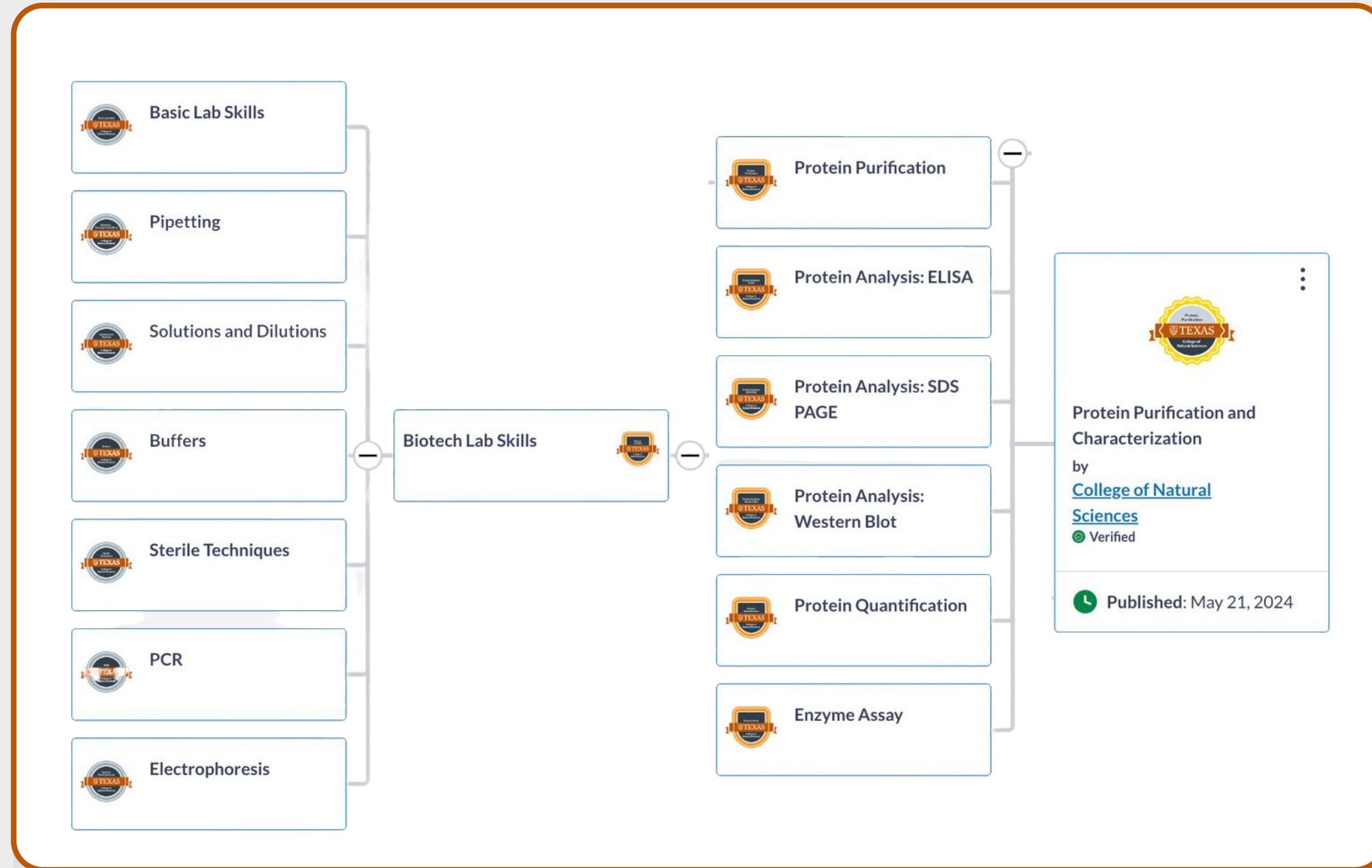
Badge: Intermediate Microscopy Critical work function - Operate a compound microscope and prepare slides	
Performance Indicators	Employability Skills
<i>How do we know when the task is performed well?</i>	<i>Academic knowledge and skills assessments required for badge</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete training on microscope</li> <li>• Microscope is operated properly in accordance with established procedures</li> <li>• Microscope is kept clean and in operating condition</li> <li>• Microscopes is put away correctly</li> <li>• Appropriate terminology is used to describe microscope</li> <li>• Logbooks are maintained and include any malfunction, calibration, cleaning, and preventative maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove microscope from storage shelf with two hands: one on the handhold at the base and one on the arm</li> <li>• Turn on the power and set light intensity knob</li> <li>• Rotate observation tube and oculars so that oculars are centered on the stage</li> <li>• Place slide in stage clip</li> <li>• Center slide using adjustment knobs</li> <li>• Adjust oculars to appropriate interpupillary distance and bring into initial focus using the 4X, then 10X, then 40X objective.</li> <li>• Adjust the iris diaphragm to increase/decrease the amount of light</li> <li>• Position eyepiece pointer</li> <li>• Remove slides by reducing magnification and using stage slip lever</li> <li>• Center stage, rotate oculars, turn off illuminator, wrap cord, put away</li> <li>• Clean objectives only with optical lens paper</li> <li>• Make wet mount slides by placing a drop of sample on the coverslip at a 45 degree angle to eliminate air bubbles</li> <li>• Calculate magnification of a specific objective</li> <li>• Troubleshoot lack of light on sample, slide not in focus, and dirty eyepiece.</li> </ul>



# Pathways



# Pathways



# Discussion

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- 01** What potential hurdles or challenges do you anticipate in implementing a micro-credential program within your core facility?
- 02** What value do you see in offering micro-credentials to researchers, staff, or students within the context of your facility?
- 03** Can you think of specific ways your facility could incorporate digital badging to recognize skills or achievements?

**Thank  
you.**

**Rebecca Fitch**

REBECCA.FITCH@AUSTIN.UTEXAS.EDU

 **TEXAS** Research