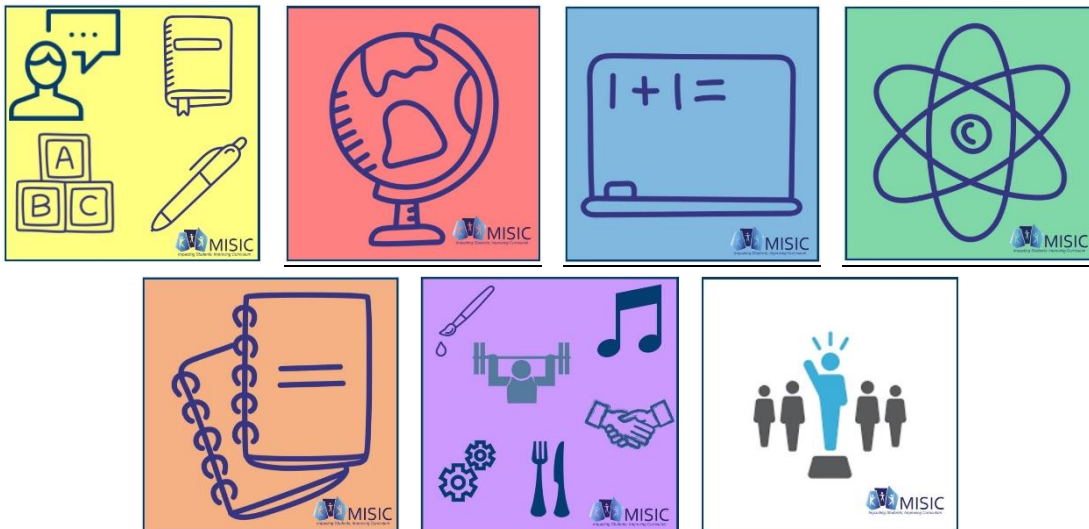




Micro-Credential Catalog



www.misicimpact.org

September 2018

What are Micro-Credentials?

- Micro-credentials are a digital form of certification indicating that a person has demonstrated competency in a specific skill.
- Rather than learning by watching, reading, or listening alone, micro-credentials promote learning by doing.
- Educators apply their learning in their instructional or leadership practice and provide evidence of implementation, thereby demonstrating their competence.
- Micro-credentials may be earned individually as a digital badge or bundled into courses that are eligible for licensure renewal credit.

Educator Micro-credentials are

Competency-based

Personalized

Job embedded

Specific

On-demand

MISIC is currently developing micro-credentials in collaboration with member schools to facilitate the learning and implementation of effective instructional practices, building the understanding and teaching of the Iowa Core Standards, and designing instruction that includes 21st Century skills.

Here is how micro-credentialing works:

- Teachers identify the micro-credential they want to earn based on their needs and interests.
- Teachers pursue their learning.
- Teachers gather and submit evidence of their competence.
- Trained assessors evaluate the evidence educators submit.
- Teachers earn the micro-credential and are awarded a digital badge.

*From *The promise of micro-credentials*, Learning Forward, June 2017.



Literacy

Argumentative Writing Task

An argumentative task will ask students to think critically and to see how well students argue on different views and demonstrate knowledge of the content. There are many argumentative topics or tasks to address in current topics of political debates, economic movements, and technological progress. A debatable task must ask students to have both analysis and fair criticism of various problems. Students must make sure when something is said against one's claim that solid arguments are needed to support the claim. What will this look like? This micro-credential will address how to compose an argumentative task as well as what the corresponding essay would look like to meet the standards for skill development.

Tools for Argumentative Writing

Do you need some more strategies in your toolbox to provide direct instruction, guided practice, and individual work for your students to produce more effective argumentative writings? Join us on this journey of exploring more tools to teach argumentative writing—an essential for today and tomorrow!

Assessing the Argumentative Writing Task

As you think about assessing the argumentative writing; you will work with defining what the task is asking for around the categories of purpose or focus, organization, evidence of elaboration, language and vocabulary, and conventions. Is the response fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused? Does the response have a clear and effective organizational structure? Is there support/evidence for the writer's argument? Is the response clearly and effectively expressed?

Narrative Writing Task

As you think about preparing your students to write a narrative, make sure students can identify the key elements of a story (e.g., characters, plot, setting, conflict, and point of view). You will then work with students to infer character traits and analyze characters. If the directions call for a story that follows from the original (as most do), then you need to read and annotate with the appropriate questions in mind. Think about potential sources of conflict. Make sure students know about catchy hooks and how to format dialogue. Students will also benefit from more nuanced discussions of how to build suspense, use sensory details, and carry the tone/mood forward. Let's get started.

Tools for Narrative Writing

Do you need some more strategies in your toolbox to provide direct instruction, guided practice, and individual work for your students to produce more effective narrative writings? Join us on this journey of exploring more tools to teach narrative writing—another tool for success in tomorrow's world!

Assessing the Narrative Task

As you think about assessing narrative writing; you will work with defining what the task is asking for around the categories of purpose or focus, organization/plot, narrative techniques, language and vocabulary, and conventions.



Literacy (continued)

Explanatory/Informative Writing Task

As you think about preparing your students to write an explanatory/informative paper, remember that the primary purpose of informative/explanatory writing is to increase knowledge. When writing an informative/explanatory text, the writer answers questions of why or how. Informative writing educates the reader by imparting straightforward information on a certain topic.

Tools for Explanatory/Informative Writing

Do you need some more strategies in your toolbox to provide direct instruction, guided practice, and individual work for your students to produce more explanatory/informative writings? If this interests you, join us on this journey of exploring more tools to teach explanatory/informative writing—another tool for success in tomorrow’s world!

Assessing the Explanatory/Informative Writing Task

As you think about assessing explanatory/informative writing; you will work with defining what the task is asking for around the categories of organization, purpose, evidence, elaboration, and conventions.

Overview of ELA Shifts

The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy build on the best of existing standards and reflect the skills and knowledge students will need to succeed in college, career, and life. Understanding how the standards differ from previous standards—and *the necessary shifts they call for*—is essential to implementing the standards well.

ELA Shift #1- Building Knowledge through Non-fiction Text

Dig deeper into Shift 1 by learning that students must be immersed in information about the world around them if they are to develop the strong general knowledge and vocabulary they need to become successful readers and be prepared for college, career, and life. Informational texts play an important part in building students’ content knowledge. Further, it is vital for students to have extensive opportunities to build knowledge through texts so they can learn independently.

ELA Shift #2- Reading and Writing Grounded in Text

Learn more about how the Common Core emphasizes using evidence from texts to present careful analyses, well-defended claims, and clear information with Shift 2. Rather than asking students questions they can answer solely from their prior knowledge and experience, the standards call for students to answer questions that depend on their having read the texts with care. The reading standards focus on students’ ability to read carefully and grasp information, arguments, ideas, and details based on evidence in the text. Students should be able to answer a range of *text dependent* questions whose answers require inferences based on careful attention to the text.



Literacy (continued)

ELA Shift #3 – Regular Practice with Complex Text and Academic Vocabulary

Rather than focusing solely on the skills of reading and writing, learning more about how the ELA/literacy standards highlight the growing complexity of the texts students must read to be ready for the demands of college, career, and life will be the focus. Closely related to text complexity and inextricably connected to reading comprehension is a focus on academic vocabulary: words that appear in a variety of content areas (such as *ignite* and *commit*). The standards call for students to grow their vocabularies through a mix of conversation, direct instruction, and reading.

Understanding the Standards

How are the standards set up? How are they aligned K-12? These are just a couple of the questions that will be addressed in this micro-credential. The college- and career-ready standards anchor the standards document and define general, cross-disciplinary literacy expectations that must be met for students to be prepared to enter college and workforce training programs ready to succeed. The K-12 grade specific standards define end-of-year expectations and a cumulative progression designed to enable students to meet college and career readiness expectations no later than the end of high school.

Close Reading

Close reading is a strategy in which students learn how to comprehend complex text and build disciplinary knowledge. Learn how to choose appropriately complex text, generate text dependent questions, and develop the steps of a close reading lesson to engage students with text.

Text Dependent Questions

Teachers need to create and use text dependent questions that redirect students back to the text to provide evidence and support for their answers.

Annotating Text

One critical way to demonstrate close reading is to annotate the text. This “reading with a pencil” helps the reader engage with text more slowly and critically in order to deepen understanding. Independent strategic readers experience how annotation “done right” develops college and career readiness skills.

Complex Text

A critical element of college and career readiness is students’ experience with complex texts. Learn how to define and identify appropriately complex texts and how to apply three measures of text complexity to texts under instructional consideration.

Using Informational Text

Well-selected informational texts provide both content knowledge and models of disciplinary reading and writing skills. Learn how to select a range of texts for units of instruction that address both content learning targets and literacy standards.



Literacy (continued)

Creating Text Sets

The literacy shifts of the Iowa Core require students to have regular practice with a range of texts worthy of deep learning. Learn about the wide variety of texts available for instruction and how to assemble a text set that will provide what students need to build content knowledge and literacy skills.

The Why of Vocabulary Instruction

Why is vocabulary instruction so important in today's classroom? We will look at some research and current practices to understand why it is important to plan and prepare for vocabulary instruction in every classroom with all students.

Vocabulary- Which words are the best to teach?

While deciding which words to teach can seem daunting, there are some general guideposts an educator can use when determining where he or she should pause and to introduce potentially unknown vocabulary. In this learning task, you will work on selecting words from current text and evaluating current words that are being used to determine if they are the best words to provide instruction.

Instructional Strategies to Teach Vocabulary

There are numerous different ways to teach vocabulary, but not all strategies are as effective as other ways. In this micro-credential, participants will learn which strategies are research-based and prove to be more effective to teaching vocabulary in the classroom. Participants will learn different strategies to use with different content.

Exploring the Top MISIC Literacy Resources

The MISIC team has researched and vetted 1,000+ tools and resources for teachers and administrators. In this component you will access the Top 20 MISIC Literacy Resources and identify the resources you will use and why, possibly use and why, or not use all and why.

Planning Professional Development for Literacy Teachers

The MISIC team has researched and vetted professional development modules that are available to deepen your understanding of shifts in core instruction. In this component you will access the Ready4U2Learn Database on the MISIC Website and explore the site to deepen your understanding of the shifts in literacy instruction. After exploring at least four modules of your choice, you will choose one module to dig deeper to determine how the shifts will impact an upcoming literacy lesson or unit.

Digging into the Literacy Standards (ELA Bookmarks)

MISIC has developed Literacy Bookmarks for the ELA/Literacy standards. In this component you will examine the Literacy Bookmarks for your grade level and reflect on how you can use this resource to plan your lessons aligned to the literacy standards.



Social Studies

Inquiry Process

Inquiry is at the heart of thinking like a historian. Understanding the inquiry process is a key component for and underpins the process of designing instruction for social studies classrooms.

Developing Essential, Compelling Questions to Guide an Inquiry Unit

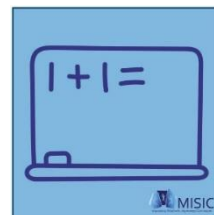
Crafting an essential question that is not only compelling, but that captures the interest and curiosity of students is critical to designing instruction that meets the demands of the new social studies standards. In this component, learners will examine the qualities of effective essential questions, critique sample essential questions and develop potential essential questions to teach some required social studies content. In addition to the essential question, learners will learn how to develop supporting questions that help guide students in their inquiry to answering the essential question.

Bundling Social Studies Standards: Integrating Inquiry, Content, Literacy and 21st Century Skills

Once an essential, compelling question has been developed, the next step is to determine the standards that will help students answer that question. Critical to this step is understanding and selecting what skills and knowledge are needed to conduct the inquiry. Standards selected must be both explicitly taught and assessed.

Aligning and Selecting Instructional Text to the Inquiry

The essential and supporting questions have been developed and the standards have been bundled to reflect the learning that will take place during the inquiry process. The next step is to select text that will be used as students move through the inquiry process. In this component, learners will identify sources of credible, authentic text for the inquiry and develop a set of texts that can be used by students as they conduct their inquiry.



Math

Overview of the Math Shifts

The Common Core State Standards for Math build on the best of existing standards and reflect the skills and knowledge students will need to succeed in college, career, and life. Understanding how the standards differ from previous standards—and *the necessary shifts they call for*—is essential to implementing the standards well. You will reflect on these math shifts within your lessons.

Understanding the Math Standards

How are the standards set up? How are they aligned K-12? These are just a couple of the questions that will be addressed in this micro-credential. The college- and career-ready standards anchor the standards document and define expectations that must be met for students to be prepared to enter college and workforce training programs ready to succeed. The K-12 grade specific standards define end-of-year expectations and a cumulative progression designed to enable students to meet college and career readiness expectations no later than the end of high school.

Planning Professional Development for Math Teachers

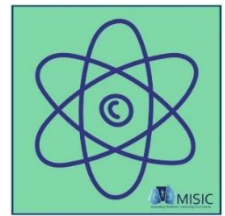
The MISIC team has researched and vetted professional development modules that are available to deepen your understanding of shifts in core instruction. In this component you will access the Ready4U2Learn Database on the MISIC Website and explore the site to deepen your understanding of the shifts in math instruction. After exploring at least four modules of your choice, you will choose one module to dig deeper to determine how the shifts will impact an upcoming math lesson or unit.

Exploring the Top MISIC Math Resources

The MISIC team has researched and vetted 1,000+ tools and resources for teachers and administrators. In this component you will access the Top 20 MISIC Math Resources and identify the resources you will use and why, possibly use and why, or not use all and why.

Digging into the Math Standards Resource Guide

MISIC has developed Resource Guides for the K-8 Math standards. In this component you will examine the Math Resource Guide for your grade level and reflect on how you can use this Guide to plan your lessons aligned to the math standards. (If you are a high school teacher, use the 8th grade guide to reflect upon a differentiated lesson/unit/intervention for struggling learners.)



Science

How to Read the NGSS Standards Document

The NGSS standards document is loaded with information if you just understand how to read it. Learn how to use the coding and tools within the document to better understand each Performance Expectation.

Digging into Cross Cutting Concepts

Cross Cutting Concepts are ideas that connect multiple disciplines of science and/or across content areas. Learn how these concepts are a part of the 3-dimensional learning and how students' progress through their understanding from grade level to grade level.

Disciplinary Core Ideas- The Content of NGSS

Disciplinary Core Ideas are the content of the NGSS standards. Learn how to use the progressions to identify what students should be mastering at each grade level to be on the path to college and career readiness at graduation.

Science and Engineering Practices- How we DO Science

Science and Engineering Practices are essential to learning about science. Learn how to use the progression chart to teach and assess the behaviors of a science student at each grade level.



Beyond the Core

Understanding Your Content Standards

No matter what content and skills you teach, all teachers are focused on the skills and knowledge students will need to succeed in college, career, and life. Understanding the standards that drive your curriculum is essential to implementing the standards well. The current standards across all our curriculums raise expectations across multiple areas of students' educational experience including instructional materials and experiences, classroom practice, and assessment. No matter what the content, it is important to note how college- and career-ready standards contribute to transformative changes in the classroom that will better prepare students for opportunities after high school.



Leadership

Overview of Professional Learning Communities

What is a PLC? What is not a PLC? What does this mean for you/your team? The powerful collaboration that characterizes professional learning communities is a systematic process in which teachers work together to analyze and improve their classroom practice. Teachers work in teams, engaging in an ongoing cycle of questions that promote deep team learning.

Laying the PLC Foundation

The quality of these building blocks (mission, vision, values, and goals) will be directly related to quality of leadership, collaboration, and staff development. You will learn the value of setting this foundation as well taking an assessment to determine current reality and next steps of the components of an effective professional learning community.

Working with the PLC Critical Questions

What are the four PLC system questions and what are the four PLC critical questions and why are they important? What evidence will be accepted that your team is answering these questions? Learning is the primary purpose of a school that functions as a professional learning community. If all staff members of a school believe all students can learn, they should be involved in addressing the following questions:

1. What is it we expect our students to learn?
2. How will we know when they have learned it?
3. How will we respond when they do not learn?
4. How will we respond when they already know it?

Establishing Norms and Agendas for Professional Learning Communities

What are norms/ground rules? How can your PLC establish norms? In PLCs, norms represent protocols and commitments developed by each team to guide members in working together. Norms help team members clarify expectations regarding how they will work together to achieve their shared goals.

Why are agendas a necessary component of the PLC process? Learn about various forms of structure for agenda and review examples of agendas that can make your PLC team meetings productive.



Lesson Design/Planning

Providing Clarity in Lesson Design and Delivery

Clarity in teaching is a major contributor to student success. Teacher clarity has a large effect size of 0.75 (Hattie, 2009), equivalent to two years' worth of growth for a year in school. When a teacher and a student are in agreement about what is to be learned and how both of them will know when intended learning has occurred, we save a whole lot of time that would have otherwise been spent floundering around looking for the purpose.

Lesson Design: Closure

Providing an intentional opportunity for closure to a lesson or a piece of a lesson offers a valuable opportunity for student reflection, deeper learning, and formative assessment. This piece allows teachers to know, through student responses, how students are responding to the instruction and where to go next in terms of "What do I want students to learn?" "How do I know they're learning?" "What do I do if they've learned it?" "What do I do if they haven't learned?"

Bundles (Courses) Available for License Renewal Credit

Individual micro-credentials have been bundled into fifteen-hour courses that are eligible for licensure renewal credit granted by MISIC, an approved licensure renewal provider with the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. Each individual micro-credential carries an estimated number of hours for completion; bundled together into a course, the micro-credentials total 15 hours for one licensure renewal credit.

- Argumentative Writing – 4 micro-credentials
- ELA/Literacy Shifts – 5 micro-credentials
- Explanatory/Informative Writing – 4 micro-credentials
- Learning What NGSS Means – 4 micro-credentials
- Learning with Text – 3 micro-credentials
- MISIC Literacy Resources – 5 micro-credentials
- MISIC Math Resources – 5 micro-credentials
- Narrative Writing – 4 micro-credentials
- The Social Studies Inquiry Process – 4 micro-credentials
- Standards, Resources, and Lesson Design – 4 micro-credentials
- Teaching with Text – 3 micro-credentials
- Vocabulary Instruction – 4 micro-credentials