Policy on Certificates and Micro-credentials

(This policy was approved by the CSULB Academic Senate on April 11, 2024, and approved by the President on April 23, 2024.)

(Supersedes Policy Statements 16-17 and 85-08)

Certificate: A certificate program is a coherent grouping of courses from one or more disciplines that provides a set of learning experiences, often, but not always, related to a specific career area. Alternatively, a certificate program may provide a multidisciplinary focus on a specific topic or area. A certificate program differs substantially in focus and scope from a degree program, for instance in providing learning for a specific career area or a multidisciplinary focus, although certain common courses may be applied to both degree and certificate courses of study. A certificate provides formal recognition by the University that the course of study involves substantial exposure to the discipline, topic, or area.

Micro-Credential: A Micro-Credential is a series of courses, or a stand-alone course of study, that allows