

Advancing Skills Intelligence in Post-Secondary & Higher **Education:**

Oberta de Catalunya

Anticipation, Alignment, and the Future of Work



Deborah Everhart

Credential Engine



Enabling Skills Intelligence through **Credential and Skill Data Transparency**

In increasingly complex credential and skill ecosystems—spanning higher education, vocational training, lifelong learning, and ongoing upskilling for workforce agility—the ability to clearly understand and compare credentials and match skills is vital for learners, employers, educators, and policymakers. Credential Engine is a non-profit whose mission is to make credential and skill data open, accessible, and interoperable with meaningful metadata in the Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL).

CTDL is a robust linked open data schema that includes over 1300 well-defined, semantically rich terms to describe credentials, skills, courses, pathways, jobs, and more. It enables clear, consistent, and comparable communication of key information, such as cost, duration, requirements, quality assurance, and outcomes. Structured credential and skill metadata in CTDL is used in systems that enable skills mapping, career advising, job matching, and reliable data exchange across platforms. Globally, CTDL can play a role in bridging between fragmented qualification frameworks, supporting policy alignment across regions, and providing a concrete data structure for learning mobility.

Linked open data in CTDL fosters transparency and trust: enabling practical solutions and providing reliable grounding for Al-powered tools, dramatically improving accuracy and relevance in lifelong learning journeys.



