



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is MOMENTUM?

MOMENTUM is an initiative led by the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance that helps students earn verified digital badges for the STEM skills they build in and out of school. These badges make learning visible and help students connect interests today to careers tomorrow.

### What is a digital badge?

A digital badge is an official, verified credential that shows what a student can do. Each badge includes:

- The skills the student demonstrated
- The STEM experience they completed
- Evidence of learning (not just attendance)
- How the skills connect to future careers, ICAPs, and pathways

Badges can be added to a student's digital portfolio, resume, or college/career applications.

### Why are digital badges important?

Students gain incredible skills through robotics, coding, drones, STEM clubs, camps, and hands-on projects—but these skills often aren't captured on a traditional transcript. Badges help families and educators see:

- Technical skills (coding, engineering, data collection, design, flight ops)
- Executive functioning skills (problem-solving, teamwork, creativity, perseverance)
- Career-connected competencies aligned to Oklahoma's workforce needs

Badges give students a clearer sense of who they are becoming and what they're ready for.



### **How does my student earn a badge?**

Students earn badges by participating in approved programs and showing evidence of learning, such as:

- Completing a project
- Demonstrating skills
- Submitting reflections or artifacts
- Showing teamwork or leadership
- Meeting program-specific criteria

Badges are not “extra work”—they’re recognition for learning already happening.

### **Who issues the badges?**

Badges are issued by certified partners such as:

- STEM clubs and camps
- Nonprofit STEM organizations
- Schools and districts
- Workforce and industry partners

Each partner completes training to ensure badges are consistent, high-quality, and aligned to real-world skills.

### **What types of badges can students earn?**

MOMENTUM badges fall across three levels:

1. Explore – Entry-level exposure to STEM experiences
2. Equip – Skill-building and deeper learning
3. Empower – Advanced skills linked to careers, endorsements, or certifications

Students can “stack” badges to show progress across a pathway.

### **How do badges support ICAP requirements?**

Digital badges connect directly to Oklahoma’s Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP). They help students:

- Track interests
- Identify strengths



- Document experiences
- Build a clear narrative for future opportunities

Schools can use badge data to support college and career planning.

### **Will colleges or employers understand these badges?**

Yes. MOMENTUM badges are designed with input from universities, educators, and industry partners so that skills translate across systems. Badge descriptions clearly outline the competencies students demonstrated, making them easy for admissions teams and employers to interpret.

### **Where can families see the badges?**

Once issued, students can access badges through a secure digital wallet and share them via:

- Email
- LinkedIn
- Resumes
- Scholarship applications
- Career or college portals

Families receive notifications when new badges are earned.

### **Does this replace grades or transcripts?**

No. Badges complement traditional academic records. They highlight skills, strengths, and learning experiences that transcripts typically overlook.

### **What information is collected for badges? Is it safe?**

To issue a verified credential, partners collect only what is required:

- Student name
- Date of birth
- School and district
- Email (student 13+ or parent/guardian for younger students)

All data is handled securely and in line with FERPA guidelines.



### **Does my student have to participate?**

No, but badges give students an advantage in understanding their strengths, building confidence, and preparing for college and careers. Families are encouraged to participate, but it is always optional.

### **How will badges help my student in the future?**

Digital badges help students:

- Tell a clearer story about who they are
- Stand out for scholarships or internships
- Translate STEM experiences into career-connected language
- Build pathways into high-demand Oklahoma jobs
- Track progress toward endorsements or industry-recognized skills

**The goal is simple: make it easier for students to move from curiosity to career-readiness.**

### **Where can I learn more?**

Visit [TulsaSTEM.org/MOMENTUM](https://TulsaSTEM.org/MOMENTUM) or reach out to us at [info@TulsaSTEM.org](mailto:info@TulsaSTEM.org) or 918-779-4910.