

What is a digital badge?

A digital badge is awarded to those who complete a distinct piece of learning. This can be an Ako Aotearoa course. In technical terms, a badge is a digital image that the issuer encodes with important information about learning or assessment. This information is called metadata and contains answers to questions about what the badge means, who received it, and who issued it.

Ako Aotearoa awards shareable digital badges to show achievement and competency for educators and others who:

- » complete professional learning and development (PLD) with us, or
- » meet the Tapatoru Foundation Learning Professional Standards Framework requirements at a particular level.

What is the purpose of a badge?

The purpose of a digital badge is to provide a way of validating and sharing indicators of accomplishment.

One advantage of digital badges is that they are smaller and more flexible than traditional credentials.

An Ako Aotearoa badge signifies achievement and competency where the recipient, often a tertiary educator, can present evidence of learning and growth.

How do badges benefit me?

Badges can help educators and others by providing a durable and shareable record of professional learning and development. You can also use a collection of badges to map out what you have achieved over time.

Ako Aotearoa badges benefit you by providing a way to show that you have kept up-to-date with current knowledge and practice with regard to adult literacy, numeracy and cultural capability.

What badges can I earn at Ako Aotearoa?

Ako Aotearoa currently offers badges as part of our [Professional Learning and Development programme](#).

The Tapatoru framework uses badges to recognise the achievement or capability of those working with foundation-level learners. Badges will be available for:

- » Tapatoru Skill Level 1 – Pūkenga Papa Tahī
- » Tapatoru Skill Level 2 – Pūkenga Papa Rua
- » Tapatoru Skill Level 3 – Pūkenga Papa Toru
- » Tapatoru Skill Level 4 – Pūkenga Papa Whā

The first Tapatoru badges are expected to be available in 2020.

Are badges qualifications?

The simple answer is 'no'. Badges are awarded for completion of a professional learning and development course or for achieving a Tapatoru Skill Level. One of the big differences with qualifications is that a badge corresponds with a single learning outcome, or perhaps at most with two or three very closely related learning outcomes. This makes digital badges different from qualifications, like the NZCATT or NZCALNE (Voc), for example.

Another difference is that badges can operate within existing qualification systems (like the NZQF) or they can stand alone.

How do I receive my badges?

Ako Aotearoa issues badges when you have successfully completed:

- » the relevant professional learning and development, or
- » the evidence and assessment requirements of the Tapatoru.

We will email you a link to your digital badge with instructions on how to store and share it.

How do I store my badges?

Currently, we are working with a badging platform called [Badgr](#). However, there are other platforms you can use for storing digital badges. If you want to use Badgr to store your badges it's as easy as setting up an account and uploading your badge.

When you receive an Ako Aotearoa badge we will send you further information on how to store your badge.

How do I share my badges?

Digital badges are designed for sharing. You can do this via email or social media platforms, including LinkedIn and Facebook.

You may wish to share your achievements with:

- » your manager
- » a potential employer
- » colleagues or a professional network.

Sharing your achievements in this way helps others understand your achievements, how you have developed in your role, and that you are engaged in ongoing professional learning and development.