



National Institutes of Health Informatics partners with McMaster University Continuing Education on a \$15,000 eCampusOntario grant to pilot micro-certification in data analytics

McMaster University Continuing Education and the National Institutes of Health Informatics (NIHI) are proud to announce a pilot project to develop and deliver a new Data Analytics micro-certification program. This past June, eCampusOntario awarded a \$15,000 grant to McMaster to pilot this program, as part of their initiative to strengthen and expand micro-certification activity in Ontario.

The three-part Data Analytics program is designed to help professionals develop their skills in the fundamental elements of the data lifecycle, including:

- Business analysis
- Data exploration
- Quantitative analysis
- Communication of results
- Data lifecycle management

“Skills in data analytics are in high demand by employers today”, says Shirley Fenton, vice-president of NIHI. “We are excited to partner with McMaster Continuing Education to offer this new three-part program to address the fundamental skills and competencies for data analysis. The program is delivered in an online format, cognizant of the busy lives of adults. Those successful in completing the program will receive a digital badge that can be displayed electronically to employers, peers and others.”

The micro-certification will be issued by McMaster University Continuing Education. All three courses, [Data Analytics I, II and III are now open for enrolment](#). The courses are developed by NIHI in close collaboration with the dedicated Instructional Design team at McMaster University Continuing Education.

The initiative is spearheaded by Dan Piedra, Assistant Director, Program and Online Development at McMaster University Continuing Education.

“Micro-certifications are a fantastic complement to our traditional Certificate and Diploma programs,” says Piedra. “Pairing theoretical knowledge with micro-certifications allows individuals to clearly demonstrate their specific skills and capabilities to future employers. The fundamental skills and competencies needed for today’s jobs are constantly evolving – micro-certifications are a great way for post-secondary institutions to stay agile and meet industry demands.”

eCampusOntario is a non-profit organization that aims to strengthen Ontario’s post-secondary education system by increasing access to online learning. In the past two years, eCampusOntario has launched over 35 pilots to evaluate the effectiveness of micro-certification for today’s labour market, while maintaining rigorous assessment, evidence and validation standards. The initiatives are assessed using [specific principles and framework](#) designed to guide the future of micro-certifications in Ontario.

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