



Thomas
COLLEGE



COMPREHENSIVE
**CAREER
GUIDE**

Preparing Thomas students for

Digital Badging
micro credentials



Why is badging important?

The digital badges at Thomas College are designed to enhance students' employability by highlighting skills and experiences highly valued by employers.

Badges are awarded to students who have successfully demonstrated how they exemplify a skill, either through experience or practice. They must provide clear examples and a detailed description of what they have learned.

- 1 Earning Career Ready badges help you meet requirements for the Guaranteed Job Program
- 2 Helps you develop skills to be more successful in the work force and more attractive to potential employers
- 3 Increase your digital network by sharing badges to LinkedIn
- 4 Practice articulating personal strengths that can assist you in future interview situations.

TIP:

Add your skills to your resume to showcase them to employers!



CLAIM YOUR BADGE



So, you've sat with a Career Navigator or PCD staff to present evidence and have earned a badge, now what?

Follow these written instructions:

For the first badge you earn

1. Scroll to the bottom of the email.
2. Click "Create Account"
3. Enter your email address (username@thomas.edu)
4. Look for the Verification Code in your email/inbox
5. Enter the Code on the Badgr site
6. Enter your name and password, then agree to the terms of service.
7. Click "Create Account"
8. You should see your badge in your account.
9. You can click "Share" to email it to others, share on LinkedIn, etc.

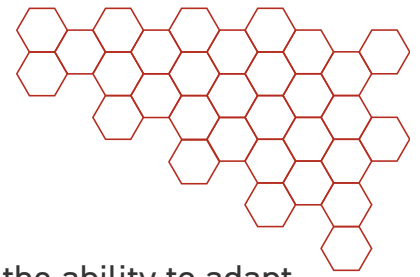
For the second/future badge you earn:

1. Scroll to the bottom of the email
2. Click "Go to Account"
3. You should see the badge in your account.
4. You can click "Share" to email it to others, share on LinkedIn, etc.

To access your badges in the future:

1. Visit <https://thomas.badgr.com/>
2. Click "Sign In" (top right of screen)
3. Enter email address and password
4. Click "Sign In"
5. You should see all of your badges

If you have questions please email, badges@thomas.edu



SKILLS BADGES



Earning this badge demonstrates the ability to adapt to various situations for success. Recipients have shown openness to learning, receiving new information, and adjusting personal beliefs and attitudes. They have successfully made compromises and modified plans when faced with unexpected changes.



Earners of the Resilience badge have demonstrated their ability to successfully deal with adversity. They persist in the face of challenges, maintain a growth mindset, use perceived failures as learning experiences, and continue moving forward despite external resistance.



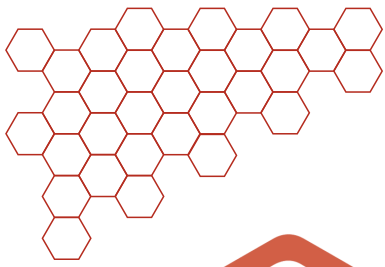
This badge signifies that the earner can participate in difficult conversations by active listening, responding, and communicating effectively. Recipients can articulate and reflect on the successful strategies used to navigate the conversation and apply them to future conversations.



This badge recognizes individuals who have demonstrated care for others, shown respect for those around them, and dedicated time and energy to helping others and benefiting their community.



This badge signifies that the earners understand and can demonstrate appropriate behaviors in their academic or work environments. These behaviors include effective written and verbal communication, appropriate dress, social etiquette, digital identity development, accountability, dependability, consistency, responsibility, integrity, respect, and dedication.



SKILLS BADGES



Earners of this badge have effectively prioritized their commitments, distinguishing between needs and wants. They have a clear understanding of how they spend their time and can schedule it efficiently.



This badge signifies that the earners have gained experience in effective communication and have developed new connections within their community.



This badge recognizes individuals who have effectively developed a process for organizing an aspect of their Thomas College experience, therefore enhancing their success. They have created a structure that allows for productive use of time, energy, and resources.



Earners of this badge have developed or maintained a practice that enhances at least one aspect of their personal wellness: Intellectual, Emotional, Occupational, Environmental, Financial, Spiritual, Physical, or Social.



Earners of this badge must actively contribute to a service project, demonstrate the project's impact on the community, list relevant skills used or obtained, and be able to reflect on the experience, including personal growth and lessons learned.



CAREER READY BADGES



The Thomas College Digital Terrier badge earner has showcased the ability to choose tools that will allow them to succeed in their given situation, and more generally are able to adapt their skill set so that they can still communicate, collaborate, access information, solve problems, and create high-quality products in an ever-evolving digital environment. The badge earner has demonstrated their technological fluency and ability to apply skills using 21st century skills.



The Creativity badge earner has demonstrated the ability to develop original ideas and adopt new attitudes in order to create changes and implement solutions that increase success. The badge earner has displayed the ability to ask questions about given information rather than conforming to what is expected. They have approached challenges with new and unique perspectives and have shown their willingness to explore atypical options



The Thomas College Responsible Citizen badge earner has engaged in community learning and service either on or off campus and has become a more well-rounded individual with better understanding of their own communities as well as communities of need. The Responsible Citizen has begun to embrace and utilize tools to support and engage with communities and has begun to expand their own identity towards community outreach, networking, and involvement.



The Advocate badge earner has engaged with notions of what it means to be equitable in a diverse environment. They have focused on the concepts of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in careers and the workplace. They understand how the systems in place in an organization can support DEI. Using this knowledge, badge earners complete an advocacy project and hands-on experience of their choice. They can articulate how this experience has impacted their worldview and professional mindset.

CAREER READY BADGES



The Thomas College Team Player badge earner has showcased collaborative skills through the culmination of a mutual project where they acted as a team player in group interactions. In addition to navigating communication and collaboration on a group project, the badge earner has demonstrated active listening and effective conflict resolution skills through working with diverse group members outside of the Thomas College community.



Earners of this badge have demonstrated the ability to apply the design thinking process to a specific challenge. After understanding their audience and problem, they have created a prototype, tested it, and iterated on it. They have shared at least a second version of a prototype in a public forum. Additionally, they have taken the time to reflect on what they've learned, why it matters, and how they might proceed in the future.



The Thomas College Leader badge earner has exemplified the skills of an emerging leader throughout an experience where they took initiative to fulfill a goal in a collaborative manner. In addition to recognizing the dispositions and skills necessary to be a leader in their future field, badge earners actively engage in the leadership process through a project that highlights their ability to: take initiative, set goals, make a plan, collaborate, actively listen, problem-solve, positively influence, coach, accept feedback, and effectively communicate (publication, marketing, and/or presentation).



The Thomas College Critical Thinker badge earner has showcased the skills needed to solve an authentic problem using critical thinking skills. The badge earner has engaged actively and consistently in problem solving through critical thinking by resolving or beginning to resolve a complex local problem using the five steps of critical thinking: formulating a question, gathering information, applying the information, considering implications, and exploring other points of view.



The Thomas College Career-Ready badge earner has already earned the Advocate, Leader, Critical Thinker, Responsible Citizen, Digital Terrier, Design Thinking, and Team Player badges from Thomas College. In completing this badge, the learner has engaged in various reflective exercises to illustrate their employability.



HOW TO EARN BADGES

FOR SKILLS BADGES:

Make an appointment with a Career Navigator or PCD Staff to present why you should earn a skills badge!

SKILLS BADGE EXAMPLE:

Skills badge opportunities:

- Attend a career fair! Make sure you dress professionally, are prepared with your resume, and connect with employers in a professional manner (PROFESSIONALISM).
- Establish a new gym routine, or maybe a new self-care technique like starting your day off with a talk. After doing this for more than 3 weeks think about how it has affected your wellness (WELLNESS).
- Work with PCD to find volunteer opportunities, reflect on what you got out of contributing both personally and professionally (SERVICE PROJECT).

FOR CAREER READY BADGES:

Come in and present your evidence to a Career Navigator or a PCD staff member and a badge will be issued via email.

CAREER READY BADGE EXAMPLE:

Digital Terrier - Athletics

- Attend 5 home athletic competitions.
- Connect with MacKenzie Oberholzer (makenzie.oberholzer@thomas.edu) at least one week before the first contest.
- Make a social media post or story utilizing video promoting the contest before the game, tag Thomas College Athletics and the team competing.
- Make a social media post or story during or after the contest that includes a picture, tag Thomas College Athletics and the team competing.
- Bring at least 5 people to the contest.
- Present the social media post or story to the Career Navigator you're meeting with to obtain the badge.