



## SCRIPT OF TALK

TITLE: **What is inside a MOOC - Certification**

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NARRATION:

Hi!! Welcome back in this module we'll talk about Certification. My name is Prabhakar and I 'm with IIT-Kanpur. So we're looking at this stack the major components of a mooc, the facet of a mooc and then we have already seen what are the Resources, Interactions, Identity Management, Assessment that happens in a Mooc. Analytics that get covered and now we are looking at Certification. Now, certification the student wants a certificate I've done a course and I would like to be recognize that I have done a course. But the Institute which is offering a course and hence the certificate they should make sure that the certificate they are giving is well deserved and has been earned. So, they must ensure the credentials and competence of student. So, what kinds of certificates are given in Moocs?

Typically there are three kinds of certificate the simplest of course is the Participation certificate which will say this student has attended the course. Now, how do we know whether the student has attended the course or not? We have analytics to help us, we can keep track of how many lectures has the student won, how many lectures has the student attended has come to, whether he has watched the videos in full or not, has he attempted the assignments or assessments that are there or that were part of it and then we say finally yes the student has attendant this particular course. This is participation certificate no big deal but, second one is a Competency certificate. Of course, this is based on assessments is not only attended all the lectures but also taken the exams and pass the exam has got a certain percentage. This requires obviously a competency certificate is of more value than an attendance certificate and requires greater commitment and achievement from the student's side and sometimes it's called a statement of accomplishment also. Now, the third kind of certificate is what we call a Verified certificate where, I have made sure that the student to whom I'm giving the certificate is indeed

the person she claims to be this is an identity established certificate. We have seen in identity management part of course how do I do this and so, but in a mooc make sure that the identity is verified and then issues certificate then it's a verified certificate. Typically verified certificates are competency certificate. So, I say that this person whose identity is established has taken this course and has accomplished the achieved goals. Okay, now who gives the certificates? The simplest the early moocs for example is where the instructor gives the certificate. I have taught the course I know that this student has come to my class and I as an individual will give a certificate subsequently when companies got formed and they became organizations the organization is giving the certificate. Mind you, these are not universities very often, universities do not give certificate. The certificates the university's give are not the or not part of their major curriculum but only are part of they are continuing education program or not. There are some exceptions to it; things are changing when we talk about how universities are dealing with Moocs. We will discuss this in more detail. For example the certificate that you would get from this course will come from the continuing education program of IIT-Kanpur and the Commonwealth of Learning. So what is a certificate worth? Does it count as a credit in a university is equivalent to a course that I have done in a university actually? No, it is not equivalent to a university course. In the sense you cannot say I have go to the University proctor and say look I have done this mooc equivalent to a course that is running here so count me as credit to give me a degree. It's not reached that stage yet so it's not equivalent to a University credit course. Do employers recognize it? This is a million dollar question. A business model of moocs is based on the fact that the employer's are expected to recognize it and hence, the students will take it and hence, the students are willing to pay for it to sustain the viability of the organization which is offering the Mooc. So, the answer to do question do employers recognize it is more on the Yes rather than on the No. In fact many of the organizations are running MOOCs with explicitly this objective in mind. In fact some companies I know will encourage their students to go and learn a certain skill or a professional aspect from a Mooc provider. But again this is also rapidly evolving and we can expect to see greater momentum in this space. Now, there is another interesting aspect when the course is done online it's called the portfolio or the e-portfolio. So, when I give a certificate I just say this

student has done the course. He has taken all exams and he got ninety five percent marks. But it doesn't really cover in the true sense how well the student has performed in the course except that metric is too restricted. So, what we could do is let's say the students have come up with a very nice algorithm or a nice proof or a lovely essay as the part of submissions in the course. Why can't I add that to the students portfolio and make it available let's say that the potential employer to demonstrate how well the student has understood the subject for that's the portfolio. Since, it's an electronic form it's the e-portfolio so any portfolio is a collection of digital artifacts showcasing the performance and achievements of student. So, when the course is run on an electronic platform like Moocs is. It's possible to collect e- portfolios and also make them available as part of the Certificate. Now, this is an interesting problem. Student comes to let's say an employer and says I have done this Mooc and I know all about by Python programming. How do I know that the certificate is genuine because it's an electronic certificate? The certificate is mailed to the student. Ofcourse it has the logo and the wording appropriate identity and so on. So, one simple way that has been used is on the certificate there is a URL which belongs to the company which has let's say offered the certificate you can go to their site and check whether the student indeed has done the course or not. So, there's a URL that allows others to check the certificate's authenticity. We're making sure that the certificate that are floating around have a persistent location where they can be verified and of course the process of certification is linked to Identity Management Assessment and Analytic as we have seen so it's important that we have these components in place before I can talk about certification.

Thank you