

PRIOR LEARNING CREDITS

Where Real World Experience = College Credit

What are Prior Learning Credits?

Many colleges and universities are re-evaluating admission processes and recognize the value of adult learners who come into schools with credible knowledge and skill sets already in place. Participating in prior learning assessments (PLA) to earn prior learning credits is becoming more common. Earning these credits can help students skip prerequisite courses or courses that focus on areas in which they already have expertise. In doing so, they shorten the path to earning a degree.

WHERE ARE PRIOR LEARNING CREDITS EARNED FROM?

PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE



MILITARY
EXPERIENCE



VOLUNTEER
EXPERIENCE



HOW DO PRIOR LEARNING CREDITS BENEFIT STUDENTS?



SAVES TIME



SAVES MONEY



EARN A DEGREE

How are Prior Learning Credits Assessed?

Students are reviewed with Prior Learning Assessments (PLA) based on certain criteria including:

- Submitting scores from standardized tests
- Placing out of courses by taking tests administered by a college
- Creating portfolio-based projects describing what students have already learned through interviews, essays and supporting documentation

(Policies and procedures for assessment may vary from school to school.)



Research from Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) shows that among adult students, **graduation rates are two and a half times higher** for students with PLA credit.



The study also found that PLA students of all ages **complete higher level degrees** and at a **faster rate** than NON-PLA students.



The path to a degree may have just gotten shorter.
Check with the schools you are interested in to see if they recognize Prior Learning Credits.