



9 Guiding Principles for Expanding Credit for Prior Learning Opportunities

1. Credit for prior learning is verified by assessing competencies acquired outside traditional academic institutions.
2. Subject matter experts are essential to the process.
3. Assessment requires college resources as well as faculty time in development, updating and evaluation.
4. The WTCS presidents have agreed to a uniform fee for assessment of prior learning system-wide beginning July 1, 2017.
5. It is a best practice to provide a tool for potential students to confirm their readiness prior to paying for a prior learning assessment.
6. Colleges recognize credit awarded by other WTCS colleges through prior learning assessment.¹
7. Colleges explain clearly to stakeholders how to get credit for prior learning and what prior learning assessments may currently be available.
8. Credit earned through PLA will be transcribed in a way that is informed by AACRAO² best practices and is transparent.
9. Colleges are encouraged to conduct research to verify the success of students who are awarded credit for prior learning vs those who are not.

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These 9 Principles are derived from the recommendations of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, are consistent with the Higher Learning Commission's recommendations regarding prior learning assessment and reflect the current goals and direction of the Wisconsin Technical Colleges as we work to expand opportunities for adult students.

¹ Agreed to by the WTCS Instructional Service Administrators (ISA) in Dec. 2016.

² AACRAO – American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

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