

The granting of credit for prior learning, especially considering the system-wide agreement signed by the presidents of the WTCS Colleges and adoption of Outcome Based Funding (OBF), has necessitated some clarification. Please provide any requests for additional clarification to james.mackey@wtcsystem.edu or scott.dubenske@wtcsystem.edu.

1. What is the difference between CPL and PLA?

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) is the practice used to award course credit for prior learning. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is a type of assessment used in the CPL process.

2. Are there different types of CPL?

Yes, CPL includes Advanced Placement (AP) Exam credit, Transfer and Military Service credit, and Experiential Learning credit. PLA is used to measure and award credit for Experiential Learning.

3. Is there a difference in PLA fees between a 1-credit and a 3-credit course? What does the PLA fee cover?

No. The Prior Learning Assessment fee is not tied to a number of course credits, it is a fee to cover incurred administration and evaluation costs.

4. What should a student be charged for a PLA that includes both a test and skill demonstration component?

The PLA fee for this type of PLA would be the higher of the two types, which is \$90.

5. Can partial credit be given for a PLA?

No. The PLA comprehensively measures the competencies of the course. The standard for passing the PLA is 80%. If 80% is not attained the PLA is not passed, and credit is not awarded.

6. Can a student retest on a PLA Test or Skill Demonstration?

No, If the student does not pass the PLA with a score of 80% or greater, they will need to enroll in the course.

7. Can a student retest on a PLA Portfolio?

No, but best practice is to allow feedback and conversation when assessing a portfolio.

8. Can PLA Fees be waived for military veterans?

No. Military veterans are charged the standard PLA fee.

9. Can credit be awarded for length of experience?

No. PLA uses evaluation of competency mastery to "translate" these learning experiences into college credits.

10. Who usually evaluates a PLA?

A PLA is developed by a faculty subject-matter expert who is primarily responsible for teaching the course. Deployment and evaluation of the PLA will vary according to the institution.

11. When a student transfers, should a WTCS college accept PLA credit awarded from another WTCS college?

Yes. WTCS College Presidents have established an agreement to accept all PLA credits stored in the system repository, awarded at other WTCS Institutions.

12. Is there a sunset date/time limit for which PLA credit awarded from other colleges be accepted at another college?

No. As with there not being a sunset date/time limit for accepting transfer credit between colleges, there is not a time limit for accepting PLA credit.

13. Where can I learn more about WTCS policy and guidelines related to Credit for Prior Learning?

CPL is described in more detail in the new WTCS Educational Services Manual, Chapter 10 and the WTCS Client Reporting System Manual.