



Credit for Prior Learning FAQs

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 the administration and evaluation costs associated with offering the assessment(s).

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

The fee for this PLA scenario would be the higher of the two assessments, 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 a 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” learning experiences into college credits.

10. Who usually evaluates a PLA?

A PLA is developed by a single faculty subject-matter expert or a system-wide group of faculty subject matter experts who are responsible for teaching the course content. Deployment and evaluation of the PLA will vary by institutional structure and policy.

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

Yes, WTCS College Presidents have established an agreement (see President's CPL MOU) to accept all system-wide PLA credits awarded by WTCS colleges. System-wide PLA are stored in the system repository.

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

No, just as there is no sunset date/time limit for accepting transfer credit between colleges, there is no 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 WTCS Educational Services Manual, Chapter 10 and the WTCS Client Reporting System Manual.