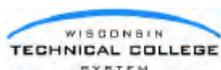


CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING OR PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND!



WHAT IS THIS REALLY ALL ABOUT?



Wisconsin Technical College System Board

POLICY

Number: 323
Subject: Credit for Prior Learning
Adopted: July 21, 1999
Current Revision: November 18, 2008
Page: 1 of 1

The WTCS State Board recognizes the following principles governing the awarding of credit for prior learning:

- Technical colleges shall provide maximum recognition for work completed through nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institutions or other education, training or work experiences pertinent to the student's new educational programming and the technical college's graduation requirements.
- Only postsecondary credits awarded a minimum 2.0 grade point on a 4.0 scale qualify for transfer as credits for prior learning to a WTCS college from a nationally or regionally accredited institution of higher education.
- Articulated credits negotiated between high schools and technical colleges for high school courses for which students later seek college credit require a minimum 3.0 grade point on a 4.0 scale to qualify for transfer as credits for prior learning to a WTCS college.
- Time limits shall not restrict the awarding of credit for prior learning unless a college has documented a specific programmatic reason for time limits.
- Technical colleges shall develop policies and procedures for implementing the State Board credit for prior learning policy. Technical college policies and procedures shall be consistent with the State Board's policy on credit for prior learning and procedures developed by the System Office.

OFFICIAL DEFINITION

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL): Or as we will transition to; **Prior Learning Assessment (PLA).**

This term refers to a process whereby technical college students may receive credit for prior learning under a college's written policies. Colleges review a student's request according to their policy and award credit for prior learning to students who present appropriate documentation.

CATEGORIES; SIX OF THEM

- Post-secondary credit earned at WTCS Colleges
 - Post-secondary credits at NON-WTCS Colleges
 - Registered Apprenticeship
 - Credit by exam, district created and or national standard
 - Experiential learning
 - High School Credit
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REPORTING; HOW DOES IT WORK?

All CPL information is collected by the colleges and reported to the System Office through the Client Reporting System using a data element called the Recognized Credit Code (RCC).

The RCC is a two character field used to identify:

- The Type of Credit being accepted (high school course credit/advanced standing, postsecondary transfer credit, exams, experiential, transcribed credit)
- The Statutory/District Authority under which the credits are accepted (articulated high school course, youth apprenticeship, journey worker credit, non-compulsory education/postsecondary level credit, military)

These codes are attached to Course Records for which the student is receiving technical college credit.

A more detailed explanation of each is in the Client Reporting Manual on our My WTCS website.

SPECIFIC DETAIL ON EACH CATEGORY

Post-secondary credit earned at WTCS Colleges

Example: Student NWTC transfer to FVTC, FVTC accepts the credits earned.

Post-secondary credits at NON-WTCS College

Example: GTC accepts credits from UW Parkside

Registered Apprenticeship

Example: Student has completed a registered apprenticeship, which includes 400 hours of instruction and is now pursuing an AAS-Technical Studies Journey Worker. This student receives 39 technical credits.

DETAIL CONT.

Credit by Exam

Example: Student takes a College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and comes to FVTC. If the student receives a 50 or above, the college will award them full credit for the colleges equivalent course. More specifically, the student takes the Biology CLEP. FVTC will award them credit for 10-806-114 General Biology. This is recorded with an AS grade (Advanced Standing) based on completion of CLEP.

Experiential Learning

Example: Student comes with a plethora of work experience including military. Student enrolls in GTC. After review of multiple credentials, student gains credit for a full course. (the experiences are considered comparable to the content and rigor of a course, based on a full assessment.)

DETAIL CONT.

High School Credit

Example: Student earns Advanced Standing (*credit activated when they enter a program at the tech college*) for Youth Apprenticeship with the help of an articulation agreement, or a review of credits utilizing the Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) process established by the college.

HOW DOES THIS REALLY HAPPEN AT FVTC?

Our Transfer Credit Analyst would review documentation submitted by the student. The Analyst is a liaison between the student and the Department Chair and/or Dean of the Division.

Depending on the type of PLA in question, there are resources we can use to review the best option for the student to earn credit. Examples are as follows:

- High School transcript
- College transcript
- Resume
- Portfolio review

It all starts with the conversation with the student.



CLIENT REPORTING

Established a working document detailing the PLA types and the Recognized State Code for reporting:

Credit by Exam – we award PLA credit for this when a student tests to show they meet the course competencies = 3J

High School Articulation – after reviewing the HS transcript and the articulated agreement between the Technical College and HS, we award credits when applicable = 1A

Life Experience – example: If a student earned certification outside of college = 4J

WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION?



The WTCS is currently in the process of developing a more “user friendly” version of the Educational Services Manual (ESM).

It will eventually be housed on MY WTCS;

[http://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/occupational-academic-excellence/occupational-and-academic-resources/new-education-services-manual-\(1\)](http://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/occupational-academic-excellence/occupational-and-academic-resources/new-education-services-manual-(1))

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