

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

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The College shall provide students with opportunities to demonstrate college-level knowledge and skills through learning experiences gained outside of a curriculum or non-curriculum course. The President of the College shall establish consistent Procedures for evaluating and awarding undergraduate college credit for prior learning.

Definitions

Certification. An industry-recognized credential or designation that is obtained once the student has successfully passed a certification exam. Certification differs from licensure in that certification is a validation of specific industry-valued competencies and not a legal requirement for practicing a profession.

Continuing Education. Continuing Education programs provide education and training opportunities for targeted audiences. Courses are non-credit, short-term, and are offered in a variety of instructional delivery modes and locations.

College-level learning. Knowledge, skills, and competencies equivalent to those expected of a student who successfully completes the corresponding curriculum course.

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL). Curriculum credit awarded for college-level learning obtained through prior learning experiences other than curriculum coursework. This definition does not include curriculum credit transferred from another accredited US institution of higher education.

Credit for Prior Learning standard. A designated amount of academic credit the College shall award for college-level learning that fulfills established criteria.

Curriculum course. A course listed in the North Carolina Combined Course Library that has been determined to have a specified number of credit and contact hours and that is applied for credit to the student's official transcript.

Licensure. Legal status granted by a government entity that provides permission to practice a profession. Licensure restricts practice of the profession to individuals who have met specific qualifications in education, professional experience, and/or have successfully passed an examination.

Prior Learning Assessment. An evaluation of whether a student has obtained the requisite level of verifiable college-level learning outside of the traditional learning environment for curriculum credit.

CPL Methods

The College may award CPL using the following prior learning methods. The President of the College shall ensure that College Procedures meet all requirements set forth in 1D SBCCC 800.3 through 1D SBCCC 800.10.

- (1) Registered Apprenticeships
- (2) Certifications and licensures
- (3) Courses listed in high school to community college articulation agreements
- (4) Military education and training
- (5) Standardized examinations
- (6) Challenge exams/Proficiency
- (7) Portfolio assessment
- (8) Public Safety Training (PST) prefix courses

CPL Requirements and Restrictions

The College may award curriculum CPL when the documentation of prior learning meets or exceeds a demonstration of learning outcomes standards for awarding credit for the corresponding curriculum course. CPL for advanced courses does not negate the requirement to meet requisite learning outcomes.

The College may only award curriculum CPL that is directly applicable to a student's declared curriculum program of study.

CPL may be used to fulfill program requirements except for mandatory institutional requirements. Examples may include, but are not limited to, requirements of external agencies that specifically prohibit the use of CPL to fulfill the program requirements.

CPL cannot be used to satisfy the College's institutional credit requirements, which prescribes the minimum percentage of credit hours a student must earn through instruction offered by the institution awarding the credential. No greater than seventy-five percent (75%) of the credit hours required for graduation from a curriculum program of study may be earned through CPL.

Any CPL awarded by the College shall be reflected in the student's records by the College's Registrar Office without quality points assigned, except for allowances for graded military credit as described in 1D SBCCC 800.6.

Course Credit CPL standards approved by the North Carolina Community College System shall be considered for transfer from any North Carolina Community College.

To be eligible to receive CPL, students must meet all of the following criteria:

- Meet all admission requirements for their program of study,
- Be enrolled in a curriculum program to which the credit will directly apply; and,
- Request a prior learning assessment and provide all required documentation.

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to supersede limitations imposed by an accreditation, credentialing, licensure, or other external agency on the application of CPL towards credentials under their purview. In such instances, the College shall document the applicable limitations in the student's file.

The President of the College shall establish Procedures for students to request a prior learning assessment.

Student CPL Appeal

The President of the College shall develop a Procedure to allow student appeal of a CPL decision.