



Prior Learning Assessment FAQ

What is PLA?

PLA (Prior Learning Assessment), also known as CPL (Credit for Prior Learning), is a valuable way to get credit toward your degree for your previous life and/or work experience.

What's the difference between PLA and CPL?

There's no difference; in fact, the terms are used interchangeably.

How can I earn PLA/CPL credit?

- Examination (CLEP or DSST exams)
- Institutional Challenge Exam
- Joint Services Transcript (Military/Veterans Only)
- Portfolio Assessment
- Industry Certifications

How many credits can I earn through PLA?

Students may receive up to 75% of their total credits for all types of prior learning.

How much does it cost to transfer PLA credit?

PLA fees vary by the type submitted. All fees are submitted through the PPCC Records Storefront. View all assessment fees on our website at ppcc.edu/PLA

How is PLA/CPL submitted?

All PLA/CPL credit is submitted online using forms maintained by the PPCC Records department. If hard copies are submitted, students will be contacted to resubmit using the online forms, which may delay the processing time.

Can I use financial aid to pay the PLA fee?

No, financial aid does not typically cover PLA/CPL fees.



➤ **How long does the PLA process take?**

Typically no more than one week. But, turnaround time varies depending on the type of PLA credit submitted.

➤ **What kind of documentation will I be asked to provide to demonstrate my prior learning?**

Documentation must be of sufficient breadth and depth to validate the stated learning and provide the evaluator with qualitative evidence. Students should work closely with the academic department to determine appropriate documentation. This list contains some but not all possible types of verifiable documentation.

- Certificates of training
- Exam scores
- Industry certifications
- Awards & honors
- Job descriptions, performance evaluations, recommendation letters

➤ **Does PLA/CPL credit count toward GPA?**

No, PLA/CPL credit transfers in as 'PLA' as the grade and is not included in the GPA calculation. Challenge exams will be awarded a grade of 'P' if successfully passed.

➤ **Can I demonstrate a skill, for specific skill-based courses, to earn Credit for Prior Learning?**

Yes, PLA/CPL may be earned through a demonstration of competency. Additionally, subject matter experts may require an oral interview in addition to written documentation provided.

➤ **Can CPL be applied to any degree program or certificate at PPCC? If so, is there a list of PPCC courses that accept CPL?**

Yes, PLA/CPL may be applied to any degree and/or certificate program at PPCC. Except for institutional challenge exams, PLA/CPL credit does not apply toward the residency requirement.

➤ **Will my PLA credit transfer to another university or college?**

Policies on awarding transfer credit vary from school to school so please verify that these credits will transfer with your school of choice.

Learn more:

Gary Walker, Director of PLA
Gary.Walker@ppcc.edu

Kendra Johnson, PLA Officer
Kendra.Johnson@ppcc.edu

ppcc.edu/PLA

