

Credit for Prior Learning

Adult learners often face challenges in obtaining credentials because of competing demands on their time from work, family responsibilities, and continued learning. It can take a long time to accumulate credits and credentials in order to build a career pathway when education and training are being pursued on a part-time or intermittent basis. The workforce system is encouraged to provide information on avenues available to individuals supporting the attainment of credit for prior learning and work experience.

Gaining postsecondary educational credit for prior learning or experience can help individuals earn credentials more quickly and can reduce total tuition or training costs since an individual may not be required to take certain courses.

National Resources on Credit for Prior Learning:

- **The Council on Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)** has resources to assist educational institutions, businesses, and workforce development programs incorporate prior learning to help their customers achieve credit toward educational credentials. CAEL also catalogs an array of technical assistance on prior learning assessment resources to support the granting of credit for prior learning or work experience, online at: <https://www.cael.org/higher-education/prior-learning-assessment-services>.
- **American Council on Education (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service** connects workplace learning with colleges and universities by helping adults gain access to academic credit for formal courses and examinations taken outside traditional degree programs. ACE provides reliable course equivalency information to facilitate credit award decisions. Participating organizations include corporations, professional and volunteer associations, schools, training suppliers, labor unions and government agencies. More information is available at: <https://www2.acenet.edu/credit/?fuseaction=transcripts.main>.
- **ACE National Guide to College Credit for Workforce Training** publishes credit recommendations for formal instructional programs offered by non-collegiate agencies, both civilian businesses and the military. For more information, see: <http://www2.acenet.edu/credit/?fuseaction=browse.main>.

Credit by Examination:

- **The College Level Examination Program® (CLEP)** gives individuals the opportunity to receive college credit by earning qualifying scores on any of 34

examinations for knowledge acquired through independent study, prior course work, on-the-job training, professional development, cultural pursuits, or internships. See: <https://clep.collegeboard.org/>.

- **Advanced Placement (AP) Exams** are a series of tests, intended for AP High School courses, with 34 exams in 19 subject areas. More information is available at: <https://ap.collegeboard.org/>.
- **Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support (DANTES) Subject Standardized Test (DSST) Credit by Exam Program.** These exams test knowledge of both lower-level and upper-level college material through 38 exams. DANTES is designed to assist military personnel in obtaining civilian educational credit for military training. For more information, see: <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/#sthash.45L9jEMM.dpbs>.

Local:

- **Experiential Learning Assessments:** also known as individualized student portfolios or interviews.
- **Evaluation of Local Training:** program evaluations done by individual colleges of non-collegiate instructional programs.
- **Challenge Exams:** local tests developed by a college to verify learning achievement.