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Credit for Prior Learning

Glynis M. Bradfield

Andrews University, glynisb@andrews.edu

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Credit for Prior Learning

Lunch and Learn Presentation, October 3, 2018

Glynis Bradfield, AU Prior Learning Coordinator & Distance Student Service Director

An Introductory Tour



1. CPL Today: Rationale & Terms
2. ACE Implementation Matrix
3. AU CPL Policies
4. AU CPL Procedures
5. AU CPL Resources
6. CPL Training Options

What is CPL?

CPL IS:

Learning, gained through personal or professional experiences outside of postsecondary education, that is assessed to earn academic credit.

- Credit for prior learning (CPL)
- Prior learning assessment (PLA)
- Recognition of prior learning (RPL)
- Accreditation of prior learning (APL)

CPL IS NOT:

Credit for experience; rather, credit is awarded for academic course-aligned learning gained in non-academic settings, including critical thinking about life's activities

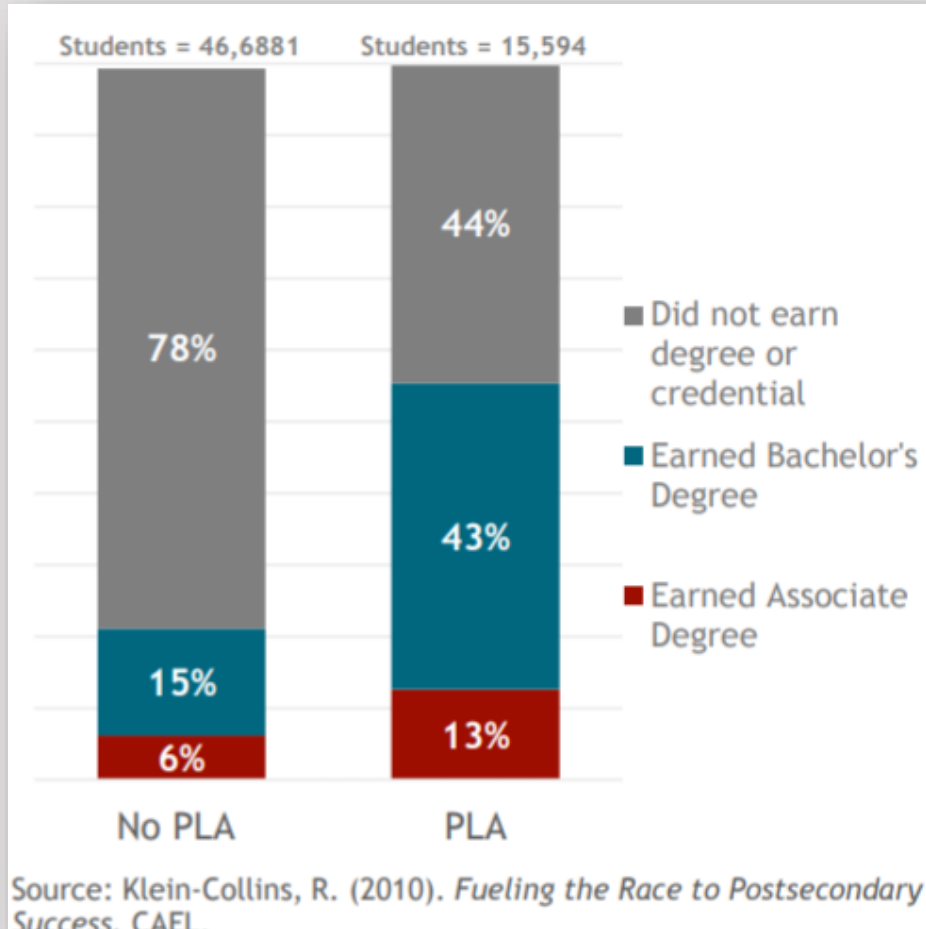
Why grant credit for prior learning?

- Recognize & respect hidden credentials
- Reduce discrimination against diverse paths to learning outcomes
- Increase student success

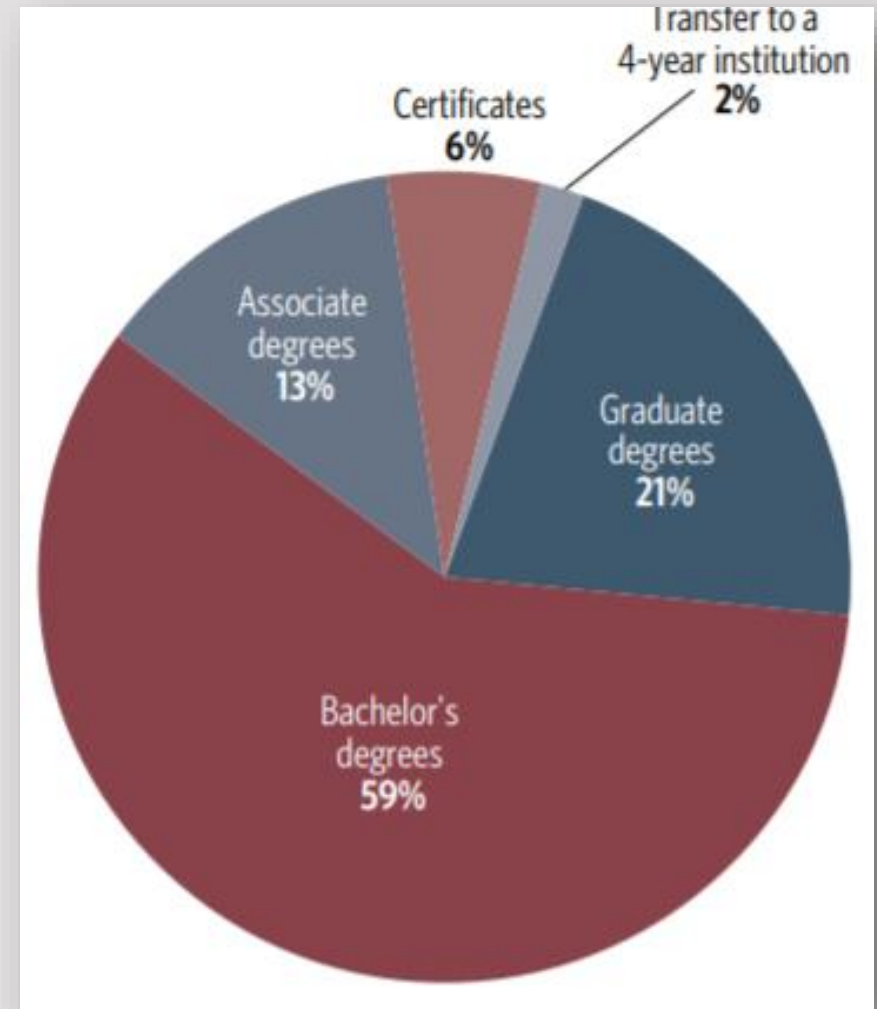


cael.org/pla-accelerator

Degree Completion Among Students with PLA vs. Students with no PLA



Degree Goals of CPL Seekers



ACE 2012 Survey of 1,348 Transcript Service Users

Credit by Examination

ADVANCED STANDING

High school transcript

- 48 Bologna Accord countries: up to 32 credits
- Cambridge A-Level
- Cambridge Pre-U
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- College Board Advanced Placement (AP)

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT

Standardized exam transcript

- College-level Exam Program (CLEP)
- Dantes Subject Standardized Tests
- Excelsior College Standardized Tests
- Joint Services Transcript (JST)*
- National Language Tests

INTERNAL ASSESSMENT

Departmental exams

- Aviation
- Fitness
- Languages
- Physical Therapy
- Religion
- Seminary

Exams may determine placement into or out of classes, waiving or fulfilling requirements

Credit by Discretionary Evaluation

PERFORMANCE TESTS

National or AU evaluation

- Art Works
- Aviation
- Communication
- Oral Language
Interviews e.g. ACTFL
- Music Performance
- Skill Outcomes

CREDENTIAL VALIDATION

National or AU evaluation




- National standards/boards
 - NCCRS corporate
 - ACE military training & unaccredited course provider transcripts
 - RN, CPA, Microsoft or Adobe certification
- Department decision
 - Evangelism center transcripts, CEUs

PORTFOLIO EVALUATION

CAEL or AU faculty evaluation

- Reflective essay and/or structured interview with artifact evidence of personal and professional learning equivalent to specific AU course outcomes

Credit for Prior Learning Implementation Matrix

INSTITUTIONAL STAGES	NEW/EMERGING STAGE	DEVELOPING STAGE	EFFECTIVE PRACTICE STAGE
FACULTY ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT	<p>Has general understanding and information on prior learning, with demonstrated institutional interest.</p> <p>Forms advisory group to craft policy and practice; attends conferences; invites experts to provide overviews.</p> 	<p>Acknowledges the role of prior learning in postsecondary pathways. Begins to develop standard policies and procedures.</p> <p>Creates venues for information-sharing across institutional constituencies; involves faculty groups in developing and vetting policies/practices, such as crosswalks and articulations.</p> 	<p>Has broad and deep understanding of credit for prior learning policies and uses that knowledge to integrate, and sustain systematic and accessible CPL practices.</p> <p>Provides professional opportunities for faculty and staff, including conferences, research, and writing; encourages faculty to include CPL activities in annual reviews, and promotion/tenure evaluations; implements incentives and areas of recognition.</p> 

**STUDENT
OUTREACH AND
SUPPORT**

Directs students to current CPL options through academic advising and program coordination.



Shares information on website and uses other venues to communicate with students, such as orientation and advising.



Informs students of CPL options prior to admission; provides expert advising about prior learning assessment; uses all types of communication tools to share information with students, from outreach with potential students to graduation.



**INFRASTRUCTURE,
POLICIES, AND
PROCESSES**

Scans the landscape for current and informal institutional CPL practices; seeks policy and practice models among peer institutions.



Expands current policy and practice; puts people and structures into place to manage programs; begins to coordinate CPL-related programs and services.



Selects appropriate CPL tools that fit institutional context and curriculum that recognize diversity of learners and their experiences; promotes active use of CPL in all degree areas, including major requirements and general education; well-managed with established policies and practices. Embeds CPL within other programs, such as competency-based learning.



What are the criteria for awarding CPL?

- Admitted students eligible, program/discipline limits transparently communicated
- After first term, before last term
- Not approved to replace a grade
- Learning prior to current admission*

Council on Adult & Experiential Learning (CAEL)

10 QUALITY STANDARDS & INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS



cael.org/higher-education-ten-principles



Before I even applied, an advisor drafted a degree plan including all transferable credit. With this service, who wouldn't choose Andrews?

Earning credit for prior college-level learning affirmed the value of my personal and professional development.



Is CPL possible at the graduate level?

- Yes, on pass/fail grade scale
- Up to 6 graduate credits for prior learning assessed
- All prior: 20% of program credits
- Cannot replace grades earned
- Some program exceptions

Graduate Academic Policy, AU Bulletin 2018

AU Graduate CPL

- Visual Arts, Design & Communication
- Leadership
- Nursing
- Physical Therapy
- Seminary Chaplaincy

How many CPL credits can a student earn?

Percent of Program Credits:

- Undergraduate: 30%
in addition to transfer credits
- Graduate (Masters): 20%
including transfer credits



cmich.edu/global/prior-learning

Is CPL transferable?

- Externally evaluated credits: usually yes
 - Request original transcripts – AP, CLEP, JST
- Internally evaluated credits: usually no
 - Request (AU) internal (re)evaluation

What are the criteria for challenge exams?

1. Write prior-learning-accessible learning outcomes
2. One comprehensive assessment of all SLOs
3. Success on exam possible without doing specific learning activities
4. Create a detailed exam review
5. Use learninghub to randomize items, organized to measure each learning outcome, making exams accessible to students anywhere

Departmental Challenge Exam Info: andrews.edu/distance/students/pla/dept-exams.html

How do students learn to prepare portfolios?

CAEL portfolio course

- Portfolios assessed by CAEL faculty evaluators
- Access to national pool of evaluators, subjects AU doesn't offer
- AU accepts transcript
- Undergrad and graduate evaluations

AU CPL Coordinator mentors where faculty agree to evaluate

- UG Religion
- UG Communication
- UG & GR Nursing
- UG Fitness
- GR Physical Therapy
- GR Seminary

Organizing artifacts took time but reminded me of learning I could document for specific course outcomes.



Preparing a portfolio helped me realize just how much I'd learned through the years that was college-level learning.



Faculty assessor training options?

1. CAEL Faculty Assessor Certificate

Online workshop with case studies & scenarios.

cael.org/higher-education/faculty-assessor-training

2. Individual training when portfolio needs evaluation

AU CPL Fees

Fee Description	Fees 2018-2019
Aviation: Flight Physical, Electronic, Headset, FAA Exams	\$100-\$700
CLEP fee, per test, paid to CLEP online	\$85
Departmental/CTC administrative fee, per test	\$45
General Studies degree plan fee (main campus only)	\$285
Nursing NLN Upward Mobility exam fee	\$580
Portfolio assessment & recording fee, per credit	\$160
PT Competency fee, per credit	\$386
Recording fee, per credit – departmental exam or validation	\$50
Seminary Chaplaincy recording and assessment fee, per credit	\$100

How do students learn about CPL?

- **Recruiters** – think scholarship, as CPL saves money and time
- **Enrollment** – UG admissions email alerts students to talk with academic advisor
- **Academic advisor** – ask questions in first meeting, advise around potential credit, follow-up each term until articulation complete
- **Record articulation** – notify student when grades entered
- **Financial advisor** – check prior learning status, recognize CPL fees, explain not included in aid
- **Prior Learning Coordinator** – available to assist departments with AU evaluations, coach students preparing AU portfolios, research and consult on policy, lead communication plan
- **Department/Alumni** – student stories for marketing & research
- **Marketing communication** – website, social media, printed, conversations

How does AU evaluate international qualifications?

- 50+% graduate students are international
- Diverse undergrad student populations & campuses
- World Education Service (WES) paid by student
- In-house international transcript specialist, Kerry Ferris

Standards for International Admission Decisions

The Basics

- Is the student's biographical information included?
- Institution name?
- Institution location?
- Does the institution offer the program?

Verify and Authenticate Documents

- Is the institution recognized or accredited in its home country?
- How does one recognize the signs of educational fraud?
- What are acceptable verifications of authenticity?

Recognizing International Credentials

- What type of academic credential is it?
- What type of education system does this credential represent?
- Did the student earn a degree? If so, what type of degree? If no, is the degree in progress?
- Does the candidate's educational chronology support the credential in question?
- Does this credential represent a secondary, undergraduate, graduate, professional, or other degree?
- Is there a grading scale on the credential?
- What grading/conversion should we use for the particular country?


How is information about CPL disseminated?

- [Credit for Prior Learning website](#)
- [Records Equivalency Tables](#)
- [Admission By-Country Requirements](#)
- AU Bulletin: UG & GR Academy Policy
- Emails, conversations, social media, marketing communications
- [Prior Learning Questions](#) – First Advising Meeting tool

Discussion

How does/should CPL impact:

- Recruiting?
- Advising – financial & academic?
- ACE & AU UFO?
- Course outcomes?
- Program accreditation?
- Other implications? Challenges?



5 ways to earn
Credit for Prior Learning:

1. Advanced placement, e.g. AP, Cambridge, IB
2. National exams, e.g. CLEP, available in Bell Hall Testing Center
3. Departmental credit-by-exam, e.g. languages, religion
4. Validation and proficiency assessments
5. Prior learning assessment through portfolio evaluation

Save money. Graduate sooner.
andrews.edu/distance/students/pla/

Hop-Off Survey

- Prioritize 'stops'
- Individual or departmental training request?
- Questions not answered today?



Questions? Suggestions?

andrews.edu/distance/students/pla

Glynis Bradfield, glynisb@andrews.edu