

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do I have to be a college student?

A. Yes. A Prior Learning Assessment review requires that you have applied to Northwest State Community College. This creates a transcript on which credit for prior learning can be awarded.

Q. How do I receive PLA credits?

A. Credits awarded through transfer, ACE, AP, CLEP, or DANTES are posted on the NSCC transcript. Credit by proficiency testing and credit by documentation will be posted to the student transcript once a course has been completed.

Q. Do I receive a grade for PLA?

A. Yes. Transfer credit will be entered on the transcript with a grade of T and the grade earned at the previous institution. A grade of CR will be entered on the transcript for other types of PLA credit.

Q. Is there a charge for PLA?

A. There is no fee for transfer credit, ACE, AP, CLEP, or DANTES. Credit by proficiency testing and credit by documentation include a fee to cover costs of verifying student learning.

Q. Can I transfer credits to another college?

A. Maybe. Prior Learning credit is awarded toward a degree at Northwest State Community College. The decision to transfer PLA credits will be considered by other institutions according to their program requirements.

Reliable Review Processes:

The review of prior learning is consistent with processes promoted by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). Several staff members on campus are certified by CAEL.



Robert Barraco

Student Testimonials

"I welded for several years and received credit by documentation for the welding class. It saved money and helped me accomplish my goals." ~ R. Barraco

*"Credit by Documentation helped me to receive credit for the knowledge and skills I've acquired through my work experience. I work full-time, so time with my family is precious. This program allowed me to save not only money, but allowed me to spend extra time with my family. I was honored that my achievements at work were acknowledged as valuable to my degree."
~ C. Kuckuck*

For more information, contact:

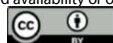
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PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

GET THE CREDIT YOU DESERVE!



This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites, and including, but not limited to accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability or ownership.



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NSCC provides services to all eligible students regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or religion. Equal opportunities is the law.



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What is a Prior Learning Assessment?

A Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is a process to recognize knowledge or skills that have been acquired prior to enrollment at the College. The prior learning might have occurred in college classes, during travel, through volunteer service, in non-credit training, during employment, or connected with other experiences.

Examples of PLA's

Several types of PLA awards are available:

- Transfer Credit
- American Council on Education (ACE)
- Advanced Placement (AP)
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Support (DANTES)
- Proficiency Testing
- Credit by Documentation

"A PLA is a process to recognize knowledge or skills acquired prior to enrolling at the college"

Do I qualify to earn PLA?

If you have knowledge or skills from outside our classrooms, you may qualify! Simply send an email to pla@northweststate.edu or talk to your advisor.

You may qualify for Prior Learning Assessment Credit if you can answer "yes" to any of these questions:

- Have you served in the armed forces?
- Do you have certifications?
- Extensive travel?
- Do you have a trade or skill?
- Do you love art or history?
- Are you good with computers?
- Do you have experience in sales, marketing, or management?

Get the credit you deserve!

Just email us at pla@northweststate.edu, we can help you organize your life skills inventory. We are here to help you get the credit that you deserve.



How do I learn PLA?

Apply online at <https://northweststate.edu/advising-center/prior-learning-information/> or tell us about your experience—email pla@northweststate.edu or contact your advisor. We will help you apply your experiences to your education. Our trained staff will work with you to identify courses that align with your goals and experiences. Then our instructors will work with you through a carefully designed evaluation

Prior Learning Assessment is supported by the Ohio Department of Higher Education

"PLA does not award credit for "life experience." Rather, it awards credit for college-level learning (knowledge, skills, and competencies) that students have obtained as a result of their prior learning experiences."

<https://www.ohiohighered.org/PLA>