

Main Street Credits

Earning College Credit for What You Know

STUDENT FAQs

What are Main Street Credits?

During their life time adults often acquire learning that may be of college-level quality and may be able to receive college credit for their prior learning. Sources of college-level learning include on-the-job training, employer and workforce training, volunteer experiences, and independent study. Military service, needs to be evaluated by our veteran's Counselor. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) refers to the methods used to evaluate whether prior learning meets college-level standards.

How do I earn credit through Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)?

There are various ways a student can prove they have college level learning that is equivalent to college credit at Nashua Community College. These include College Level Examination Program (CLEP), Credit by NCC Exam and Credit by Portfolio.

What is a CLEP exam?

CLEP exams are a group of standardized tests created and administered by the College Board and are offered at Nashua Community College. Exams offered for credit are typically for general education courses.

What is Credit By Exam?

Credit by Examination may be earned by matriculated students who, by study, training, or experience outside the College, have acquired skill or knowledge equivalent to that acquired by students enrolled in a course at the College. Such skill, knowledge, or experience shall be in the area of the course concerned and determined to be relevant by the Vice President of Academic Affairs

What is Credit By Portfolio?

A portfolio is documentation of your past learning which has been prepared and presented by you to the college as part of a petition requesting credit for learning outside of a college classroom. A faculty assessor(s) will be appointed to review your portfolio for college credit.

How do I know if I am eligible to earn credit for my prior learning?

Talk to the Academic Department Head for the course you wish to receive PLA credit. He/she can provide additional information to help you determine if PLA is the way for you to go and which method is appropriate.

How many credits can I earn through PLA?

The maximum amount of credit a student can earn through PLA is 24.

How much does PLA cost?

The cost of receiving credit for prior learning depends on the method of PLA you choose. Refer to Main Street Credits, PLA Manual for Students

Does financial aid apply to PLA?

Financial aid cannot be used towards PLA.

How long does it take to earn PLA credit?

It depends upon the method you choose to earn credit for PLA. The Portfolio method is likely the most time consuming. Together you and your faculty PLA assessor will determine the appropriate amount of time for you to complete your Portfolio. The amount of credit you are seeking and schedules are some of the things that will be considered.

How will PLA credit appear on my transcript?

The amount of credit awarded and the course for which it is earned will show on the transcript. Credit for PLA does not affect the GPA.

Will PLA transfer to other institutions?

If you are considering to another institution you should consult with that institution to see if they accept PLA credit in transfer.

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