The URL for FastPathOhio is: http://fastpathohio.com/.

This is Ohio’s Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) website. Screenshots of the website are below:
About FastPathOhio

Your path to earning college credit through PLA

By the year 2020, 64% of all Ohio jobs will require some education and training beyond high school— including certificates and degrees.
- Georgetown University Center on Education and Workforce

- Have you recently been laid off or are you an adult learner trying to go to college but are having difficulty finding the time and money to get that certificate or degree?
- Are you trying to find a way to accelerate through a training program because you know you need a certificate or degree to take that next step in life?
- Do you have at least 5 years of work, life or military skills or training?

If so, credit for prior learning (PLA) will help colleges evaluate your level of learning for possible college course credit and in the process will help save you time and money as you pursue a certificate or degree.

Here’s how you start the process, select a participating college and create an account. Once that has been completed, a PLA advisor will be in contact to guide you to the next step. It’s that easy!

Want to know more about the E-Portfolio process?
Here’s how it works.
To find out what some of your other prior learning evaluation options are, please go to Options to Recognize Prior Learning.

Are you ready to get started?

sign up!
How It Works

How can I make my experience count for college credit?
With FastPathOhio, you can earn credit by creating petitions to have your work or life learning experiences assessed at one of the participating Colleges. Once you register for an account, you will be guided through an intuitive, streamlined and user-friendly process. Below is a general outline of key steps in the journey you will take while seeking credit for your prior learning.

Getting Started

Building Your Profile
After you have created your account, one of the first things you will do is build your profile so that when an advisor contacts you, he or she will have a general idea of who you are and what you have accomplished. It’s a simple process that will only take minutes!

Selecting a Target Institution
While building your profile, one of the most important steps is identifying one of Ohio’s Distinctive Colleges as your target institution.

Creating and Submitting Your Request
This is why you are here right? That’s what we thought!
By starting a petition for credit you are only a couple of steps away from being able to get in touch with an advisor at your target institution.

While creating your request, you can search courses for which you can possibly get college credit by using a keyword search tool. You can select up to five courses that you feel are a good match to your prior learning. If you are unsure of what course(s) to select, you can still submit a request to an advisor.

Submitting Your Application
An advisor at your target institution will contact you and provide one-on-one counseling about your petition using our built-in Message Center. As your advisor works with you, you will discuss your prior learning experience as well as help determine the course that is the best match for you to earn credit. Once you select the right course and submit your final application, your advisor will determine whether or not you are a candidate to participate in formal assessment for prior learning credit.
E-Portfolio Review and Transcription

Once you submit your e-portfolio, a faculty assessor will evaluate it and notify you of their decision to either approve or deny your application for prior learning credit for the particular class you chose. If approved, your PLA advisor will confirm that the transcription process has been completed and that the course is listed on your transcript with a grade indicating you are being awarded credit for the class.

If any further action by you is needed, you will be contacted. Please note: Check with your institution to determine the maximum number of PLA credits you can earn, not including transfer credits.

Building and Submitting Your E-Portfolio

There are several building blocks to creating your e-portfolio such as your reason for petition, resume, personal essay, and any other supporting documents that you believe will help an assessor with their evaluation. You will receive a copy of our portfolio guidelines when you create a petition. Once you have completed your required items you can submit your e-portfolio to be assessed.

Credit Awarded

Participating Colleges

Central Ohio Technical College

Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) is a state-assisted, post-secondary institution of higher education offering associate degree and certificate programs in business, health, engineering and public service technologies. The college is located in Newark about 40 miles east of Columbus. The college shares the 127-acre Newark campus and some personnel and services with The Ohio State University at Newark. Classes are also offered at full-service locations at Coshocton, Knox and Pickaway extended campuses. COTC and Ohio State Newark have separate governing boards of trustees, faculites and programs. Students share in social, sporting and cultural activities and are considered one student body. Opportunities exist for students to take classes from the other institutions through a liberal cross-registration policy. Over 4000 students are enrolled at COTC each year. The college has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission since 1975.

Cincinnati State Technical and Community College

At Cincinnati State, we provide affordable, high-quality education to students. We offer more than 100 associate degree programs and certificates in Business, Technologies, Health and Public Safety, Engineering and Information Technologies, and Humanities and Sciences. We know that higher education is about more than receiving a diploma or certificate to hang on the wall. It’s about shaping your future and preparing you for the future, whether that means beginning a career, getting a promotion, or starting something new. As the premier career college, we help students achieve their professional and education goals by providing a nurturing learning environment.

Whether you’re attending college for the first time or finishing a degree you started long ago, our faculty and staff are here to help you be great. Full information on our academic programs is available at www.cincinnatistate.edu
Lorain County Community College

Lorain County Community College is an innovative leader serving the education, economic, community and cultural needs of Lorain County and the region. Lorain County Community College offers a progressive, diverse educational environment serving more than 12,000 associate degree students per year and offering more than 100 academic programs and majors. LCCC has emerged as an innovator in higher education through the success of its University Partnership – the first of its kind at an Ohio community college – where more than 1,000 students are able to pursue more than 50 bachelor’s and master’s degrees from 12 of Ohio’s leading universities on LCCC’s campus at about a third of the cost. Lorain County Community College is deeply committed to student success and is part of Competency-by-Design Initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. [www.loraincc.edu](http://www.loraincc.edu)

Northwest State Community College

Northwest State Community College is an accredited, two-year, state-assisted institution of higher education that has served northwestern Ohio since 1969. Northwest State is committed to providing a quality, affordable education with personal attention and small class sizes. The College offers associate degrees with numerous transfer options, short-term certificate programs, and workforce training programs designed to meet the needs of local businesses and industries.

Owens Community College

Owens Community College has served northwest Ohio since 1965 as an accredited, two-year, state-assisted institution of higher education with an open-door admission policy. With a commitment to providing small classes, personal attention and competitive affordability, the College serves the diverse academic needs of credit and non-credit students on the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses, as well as at the Owens Community College Learning Center Downtown Toledo. Owens offers associate degrees in the Arts and Sciences and technical programs across a wide range of applications. Business, Health Sciences, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Skilled Trades, and Engineering and Transportation Technologies. Owens Community College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and has 54 programs that are accredited through their own discipline-specific accrediting bodies. For more information, visit [www.owens.edu](http://www.owens.edu).

Stark State College

Stark State College is a student-centered comprehensive community college with transferable higher education and career development programs. Stark State College is committed to preparing students for career success in a competitive, sophisticated economy. Graduates are in demand by employers who recognize their high skill level and readiness to succeed.

Students receive a high-quality education at an affordable cost. Stark State is the largest of Stark County’s colleges and universities, and the fourth largest of Ohio’s 23 public two-year colleges in the University System of Ohio. Stark State College offers more than 230 associate degrees, majors, one-year certificates, and career enhancement certificates in business and entrepreneurial studies, education, engineering technologies, health and human services, information technologies, liberal arts, mathematics and sciences.

Youngstown State University

Youngstown State University is a comprehensive urban research university that offers more than 13,000 students more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programs backed by a strong tradition of teaching, scholarship and public service. As a major educational and economic development resource in the region, YSU is known for its focus on academic research in interdisciplinary programs that transform its students into successful professionals, scholars and leaders.

Located in the heart of the Tech Belt between Cleveland and Pittsburgh, YSU provides opportunities for students to actively participate with accomplished faculty in one-on-one settings, on advanced research and creative collaborations. The beautiful 146-acre campus includes high-tech classrooms, state-of-the-art student services, research facilities, an award-winning advising center, and recreational facilities among the best in the nation.

Are you ready to get started?

sign up! 🔄
Other Options for College Credit

Individualized Assessment & Challenge Exams

Through our Prior Learning Assessment program, faculty members who are subject matter experts knowledgeable in specific areas (Business, Engineering, etc.) evaluate non-college learning from your experiences (work, life, military, volunteer, etc.) to see how they compare to a course's outcomes. This will help our faculty decide whether the learning from these experiences can be considered for college credit. For example, if you have experience as a supervisor in an industrial manufacturing firm, we will ask you to demonstrate what you have learned about production problem solving, cost-effectiveness, and supervision, and how that learning can be related to the objectives of a college course.

To be eligible for possible college credit, your prior learning experience must:

- Be equivalent to quality college-level learning.
- Equivalent to a course in your program of study.
- Able to demonstrate to qualified evaluators that you possess the appropriate knowledge, competencies, skills and/or habits of mind for a particular field or fields.
- Grounded in both theory and practice. College credit will not be awarded for solely the application of a manual skill or a narrowly prescribed routine or procedure. You must have a demonstrated knowledge base of specific subject matter and understand why you do what you do.
- Generally applicable outside of the specific situation in which you acquired the experience and indicate your knowledge of basic principles of the subject area.

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Other Options for College Credit

National & Local Evaluations of Training

Credit by ACE recommendation

American Council on Education (ACE) National Guide to College Credit for Workforce Training and the ACE Military Guide. ACE assesses non-collegiate instructional programs to provide published credit recommendations for formal instruction programs and exams offered by non-collegiate agencies (including military employers, the military, professional associations, and other workplace-related training). If you participated in a course through an organization that was evaluated by ACE, you can request a copy of your transcript from that organization.

Credit by National College Credit Recommendation Service (NCCRS) and NOCTI

NCCRS provides college credit recommendations for training and education programs offered outside the college classroom, based upon a thorough review by discipline-specific faculty. Formerly known as PIONEER, NCCRS collaborates with NOCTI to evaluate non-collegiate training and education programs for college credit equivalencies. Experienced industry experts and profession evaluate the rigor of the NOCTI assessments to translate the content into college credit equivalencies.

Credit Given by your Chosen College

Program evaluations of non-collegiate instructional programs may be done by our institution. The types of programs evaluated are industry certifications, professional licenses, apprenticeships, and other local workplace trainings that demonstrate the competencies required for completion of degree or certificate programs. Industry certifications earned through non-credit courses can create a pathway to additional certificates or a degree. For example, Cisco CCNA, Network+, Microsoft are just a few of the many other certifications that link to a more advanced course of study, saving you time and money toward your degree. By continuing on the pathway to a certificate or degree program, your training responds to the expectations of the workplace. Each achievement in education adds to career advancement and learning potential. Please check with your PLA advisor for more information on how to get this process started.
Are you ready to get started?

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Other Options for College Credit

Standard Exams

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
You may receive college credit if you have earned at least the state minimum required score on any College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam. Learn more about CLEP testing opportunities from your college or visit: clep.collegeboard.org

Advanced Placement (AP)
If you took college-level courses in high school, or gained educational experience from other sources, you may be able to take an Advanced Placement examination and receive AP credit as long as you earn a score of 3.5 or higher to receive your degree. Learn more about AP Credit at your college. For more information visit: www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/advancedplacement.html

Other standard exams that may be used by colleges to evaluate prior learning include: DSST (DANTEC), NYSTLC Language Exams, UExcel/Excelsior College Examination Program, and ACT-PEP. Before you decide on an exam, please check with your PLA advisor to discuss your options.

Are you ready to get started?

sign up!
Other Options for College Credit

Transfer Credit

Credit by Transfer from another College
Planning ahead and looking at how your transferred work will be awarded is key to
your success. Transferologylab.com is a one stop shop for transfer information.
This website is free to use and gives you resources and interactive tools to easily
identify courses and degrees that transfer to participating colleges and
universities. You may search for course equivalencies, as well as run transfer
credit maps and save them by registering for an account.

Are you ready to get started?

sign up!
Sign In or Register Today

Username *
Password *

Sign In

Can't access your account?
Students, click here to register if you don't have an account.