

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

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



What are the advantages of using FastPathOhio?

FastPathOhio awards credit for college-level learning (knowledge, skills, and competencies) that students have obtained as a result of their prior learning experiences.

Degrees mean jobs
56% of Ohio's in-demand jobs require a certificate or degree.



Saves you time
Earn your certificate or degree faster because you applied for and received PLA college credit.



Get credit for what you already know
Get college credit for workplace training, military training and service, professional certifications and volunteer activities.



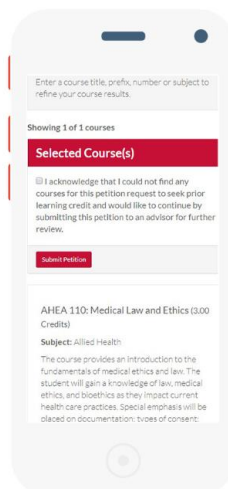
Saves you money
Save the cost of tuition for PLA college credit awarded to you.



Great for adults returning to college
Enrollment for non traditional learners is increasing. In 2015 alone, 41% of college students were over the age of 25.



Get credit for exams
Potential to earn credit for exams such as AP, IB, CLEP, DSST and more.



How it Works



Request

Getting started is a breeze. You'll create an account, select your target institution, build a profile, search for courses related to your prior learning and create a request to speak with an advisor.



Application

Your personal advisor will guide you in creating your application and recommend what course(s) will provide the best opportunity to award you credit for your prior learning experiences.



E-Portfolio

Once your application is approved, you will build your e-portfolio that will be evaluated by a qualified assessor at the college.

Discover



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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?

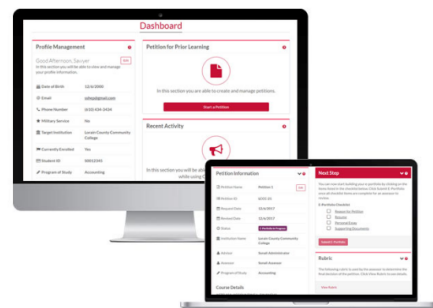
If so, credit for prior learning (PLA) will help colleges evaluate your level of learning for possible college course credit and in the process will help save you time and money as you pursue a certificate or degree.

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! ➔



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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 along 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.

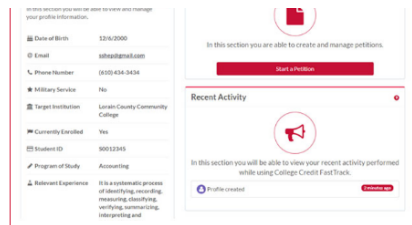
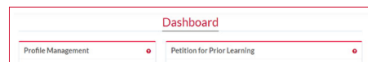
Getting Started

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!

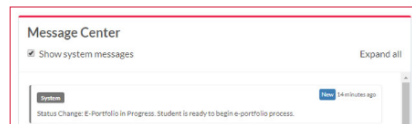
Getting to Know Your Dashboard

Once you have finished building your profile, you will be introduced to your dashboard. This is a command center where you will be able to create and manage petitions for credit, check your recent activity, view notifications, and edit your profile. Your dashboard will let you know exactly what is going on during each step of the petition process.



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.



Selecting a Target Institution

While building your profile, one of the most important steps is identifying one of Ohio's [Participating Colleges](#) as your target institution.

A screenshot of the "What is your target institution? (Step 4 of 7)" form. It includes a "Sign Out" link. The form asks to select an institution, with "Lorain County Community College" selected in the dropdown. It also has fields for "Currently Enrolled" (Yes/No) and "Student ID" (50012345). At the bottom, there are "Back" and "Continue" buttons.

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.

A screenshot of the "Create a Petition - Course Search" form. It shows a search bar with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, it says "Showing 10 of 438 courses for Lorain County Community College". There are two course listings: "ACTG 151: ACCOUNTING I - FINANCIAL (4.00 Credits)" and "ACTG 152: ACCOUNTING II - MANAGERIAL (4.00 Credits)". Each listing includes a brief description and a "Select Course" button. On the right side, there's a "Selected Course(s)" section with a "Select Petition" button.

Status Change: E-Portfolio in Progress. Student is ready to begin e-portfolio process.

Status 14 minutes ago

Status Change: Ready for payment. Student (Shayela) has acknowledged e-portfolio videos and guidelines.

Status 14 minutes ago

Status Change: Application Recommended. Advisor (Sonal Administrator) has recommended the student's application. Student is able to proceed with the e-portfolio process.

Status 14 minutes ago

Status Change: Application Submitted. Application Under Review. Application submitted and is ready for advisor review and determination.

Status 14 minutes ago

E-Portfolio Review and Transcription

Once you submit your e-portfolio, a faculty assessor will evaluate it and notify you of the 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.

Petition Information

Petition Name

Petition 1

NEW

Petition ID

LCCC-21

Request Date

12/6/2017

Revised Date

12/6/2017

Status

Completed Review

Institution Name

Lorain County Community College

Advisor

Sonal Administrator

Assessor

Sonal Assessor

Program of Study

Accounting

Course Details

ACG155-ACCOUNTING I - FINANCIAL

Learning Outcomes

Next Step

You can now start building your e-portfolio by clicking on the items listed in the checklist below. Click Submit E-Portfolio once all checklist items are complete for an assessor to review.

E-Portfolio Checklist

Reason for Petition

Resume

Personal Essay

Supporting Documents

Submit E-Portfolio

Rubric

The following rubric is used by the assessor to determine the final decision of the petition. Click View Rubric to see details.

View Rubric

Resources

Credit Awarded

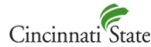
Participating Colleges



Central Ohio Technical College

Newark, OH [Official Website](#)

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 177-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 Pataskala extended campuses. COTC and Ohio State Newark have separate governing boards of trustees, faculties 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

Cincinnati, OH [Official Website](#)

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 stepping forward and preparing for your 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.cincinnati.state.edu



Lorain County Community College

📍 Elyria, OH 🌐 [Official Website](#)

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 3,000 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 Completion-By-Design Initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. www.lorainccc.edu/PLA



Northwest State Community College

📍 Archbold, OH 🌐 [Official Website](#)

Northwest State Community College is an accredited two-year, state-assisted institution of higher education that has served northwest 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

📍 Perrysburg, OH 🌐 [Official Website](#)

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 unmatched 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 program areas in Agriculture, 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.



Stark State College

📍 North Canton, OH 🌐 [Official Website](#)

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, OH 🌐 [Official Website](#)

Youngstown State University is a comprehensive urban research university that offers nearly 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 and creative 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, often in one-on-one settings, on advanced research and creative collaborations. The beautiful 145-acre campus includes high-tech classrooms, state-of-the-art labs and performance facilities, a variety of on-campus housing options 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 instructional programs and examinations offered by non-collegiate agencies (including civilian 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. If those credit recommendations are equivalent to a course in your college's program, you may be eligible for credit.

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 PONSi, NCCRS collaborates with NOCTI to evaluate non-collegiate training and education programs for college credit equivalencies. Experienced industry experts and professors evaluate the rigor of the NOCTI assessments to translate the content into college credit equivalencies.

Credit Given by your Chosen College

Program evaluations or credential reviews of non-collegiate instructional programs may be done by our institution. The types of programs evaluated are industry certifications, professional licensures, 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 expectation 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.

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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 or higher to receive your degree. Learn more about AP Credit at your college. For more information visit: www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/submescts.html

Other standard exams that may be used by colleges to evaluate prior learning include DSST (DANTES), NYU 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.

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Other Options for College Credit

Transfer Credit



Credit by Transfer from another College

Planning ahead and knowing 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.

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Other Options for College Credit

College Credit for Military Experience



As a veteran or service member, you may be able to receive college credit for your military experience, training and service - saving you time and money to complete your degree.

The American Council on Education (ACE) collaborates with the U.S. Department of Defense to review military training and experience and to recommend appropriate college credit. ACE's credit recommendations appear in the [ACE Military Guide](#).

You may also be able to receive credit for professional development and training courses offered by business and industry, which can be evaluated through various prior learning assessment options. Contact an academic advisor in the counseling department at your target community college to learn more.

Contact Your College Advisor and VA Certifying Official

There are several steps you can take to ensure you are on the right path.

Contact your college's academic advisor to answer questions and help you get started. They can help you obtain your [military transcript](#). Discuss with your advisor courses and/or training that might qualify for a prior learning assessment.

For a list of military experience and training already approved for college credit at Ohio colleges, click this link: [Courses for Ohio College Credit for Military Training](#). Your college academic advisor can give you help and provide additional information.

All approved colleges and programs have a VA Certifying Official who can assist veterans and service member students with the benefits process and in exploring your educational options. To find the VA Certifying Official at your college, go to the federal [WEAMS Institution Search](#).

Apply for VA Educational Benefit Benefits

As a veteran or service member, you may be eligible for educational benefits through numerous VA Educational Benefit programs. For example, if you are with a [Yellow Ribbon Program](#) which allows approved institutions of higher learning and the VA to partially or fully fund tuition and fee expenses that exceed established thresholds under the Post-9/11 VA Educational Benefit. To find out what education benefits you are eligible to receive, visit the [VA Educational Benefit](#) website or contact the Veterans Affairs (VA) Certifying Official at your institution for a benefits application.

You also should complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). The FAFSA serves as the application for most federal and college-based financial aid, such as grants, loans and work-study funds.

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.