

SO WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK?

Frequently Asked Questions About Prior Learning Assessments

Q: How do I know whether or not it makes sense for me to seek academic credit for my prior learning?

A: *The best way to know is to talk to an academic advisor, so give us a call!*

Q: I can think of an area that might qualify for credit, but it doesn't relate to the degree program I want to complete. Why would I bother going through the process to receive credit?

A: *Most programs require students to take electives. The credit you receive may be used to fulfill elective requirement....saving you both time and money.*

Q: I haven't enrolled in a program yet. Do I have to be an enrolled student to receive credit?

A: *Not necessarily. Working through Middlesex Community College you can earn credit that can be used here or transferred to another college or university.*

Q: Is credit awarded for prior learning transferable?

A: *No matter how credits are earned (prior learning, in the classroom, or online) it is up to the receiving institution to determine which credits will be accepted to transfer. However, students receiving credit through Middlesex Community College have successfully transferred credits to almost every college and university in Connecticut.*

ABOUT US

The Center for New Media at MxCC offers innovative associate degrees in broadcast cinema, multimedia, and communication, as well as job-based certificate programs in areas such as interactive entertainment, gaming, 3D animation, new media production, news and sports production, corporate media and web design.

Join our cutting-edge Center for New Media program and gain the knowledge, skills and experience you need for a competitive edge in the workforce.



PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

How to Receive Academic Credit For What You Already Know

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MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CENTER FOR
NEW MEDIA

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WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

ASSESSMENT: THE KEY TO EARNING CREDIT



Adults learn what they want or need to know. We are curious, self-motivated and know how to find the information we need. In other words, we educate ourselves. Did you know that you may be able to receive college level credit for that education?

For example, if you were asked to create and manage a company website at your job, would you immediately think: "I need to take a course on that at my local college"?

Probably not. However, you might:

- Use the internet to start researching the topic
- Buy and read books that help you understand web design
- Enroll in workshops taught by professionals that teach best practices for web design

If what you have learned on your own is equivalent to what you would have learned in a college level course, you may be able to receive college credit.

In order to receive academic credit, you will need to prove: 1) what you have learned and 2) that you know it is at a college level.

There are a number of ways you can do that including testing and developing a learning portfolio. There may be fees associated with earning the credit, but the fees will be significantly less than taking a college course.

Prior Learning Portfolios are created by the student and working through a process established by the College. The portfolio is evaluated by experts in the field. You must complete a learning outcome statement for each specific area of study in which you are requesting credit.

Standardized Tests on specific content can be taken through reputable organizations including Advanced Placement Examinations, the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Subject Tests and DANTES/DSST. For more information check:

- apcentral.collegeboard.com
- clep.collegeboard.org
- ets.org/gre
- getcollegecredit.com
- excelsior.edu

Credit By Exam may be offered by the program coordinator at the College in the field of interest and it will be based on existing curriculum.

Credit for Previously Evaluated Non-Credit Programs is offered through the Connecticut Credit Assessment Program (CCAP), the National College Credit Recommendation Service, and through the American Council on Education. These programs have been evaluated by faculty members who teach similar material at the collegiate level. For more information check:

- charteroak.edu/Prospective/Programs
- ccap.cfm
- acenet.edu
- nationalccrs.org