Prior Learning Assessment











Today's Goals

Who

What

When

Why

How

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is a process for evaluating knowledge and skills in order to award college credit for learning from:



What does SACS say?

3.4 All Educational Programs

3.4.4 The institution publishes policies that include criteria for evaluating, awarding, and accepting credit for transfer, experiential learning, credit by examination, advanced placement, and professional certificates that is consistent with its mission and ensures that course work and learning outcomes are at the collegiate level and comparable to the institution's own degree programs. The institution assumes responsibility for the academic quality of any course work or credit recorded on the institution's transcript. (See Commission policy "Collaborative")

Academic Arrangements.") (Acceptance of academic credit)

- 3.4.8 The institution awards academic credit for course work taken on a noncredit basis only when there is documentation that the noncredit course work is equivalent to a designated credit experience. (Noncredit to credit)
- 3.5 Undergraduate Educational Programs
- 3.5.2 At least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree. (See Commission policy "Collaborative Academic Arrangements.") (Institutional credits for a degree)



What does the data say about PLA?

CAEL'S RESEARCH OF 48 POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE US STUDYING 62, 475 STUDENTS REVEALED:

Students using PLA had better graduation rates regardless of:

- Institution size, level (2 or 4 year), or control (public or private);
- Student's academic ability or GPA;
- Students' age, gender, race/ethnicity;
- Whether financial aid was utilized.

43% of PLA students graduated with a bachelor's degree, compared to 21% of non-PLA students. 13% of PLA students graduated with an associate's degree, compared to 6% of non-PLA students.

CAEL: Employer Views on the Value of PLA

Research Brief, February 2012



A 2010 report by the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) noted that more than 900,000 individual workers received employer tuition assistance during the 2007–2008 academic year (Jones, 2010). Because these education benefits are going to working adults, many of whom have gained college-level learning from on-the-job training and other workforce learning,

both the individual worker and the employer

would benefit if that learning counted towards a degree or other postsecondary credential.

American Council on Education (ACE)

With over <u>35,000 courses evaluated</u>, ACE is the national leader in the evaluation process for education and training obtained outside the classroom.

Employers and organizations

- •Gain a national recognition as providers of quality training
- Save money on tuition reimbursement
- Recruit and retain employees



Are we out on a limb?

States with PLA policies

ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, COLORADO, FLORIDA, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, OHIO, OKLAHOMA, OREGON, PENNSYLVANIA TENNESSEE, VERMONT, WASHINGTON

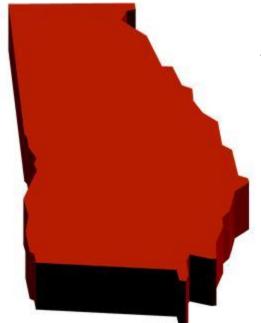


Coming Soon!

Examples

Valdosta State University
Doing PLA for 10 years! All options available





Bainbridge State College All options available 2-4% of credits earned per term

> Southern Polytechnic All options available, recently adopted policy

Darton State College Under development

Atlanta Metropolitan State College Under development

Complete College Georgia – Increase PLA usage by 20% Lumina Foundation Grant – USG institutions will work to increase PLA policy in 50% of schools.

NEXT ON DECK...









What are our Existing Approaches to assessing Prior Learning?

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

STANDARDIZED TESTS: CLEP & DANTES

INTERNAL EXEMPTION EXAMS

MILITARY CREDIT EVALUATED BY ACE

Additional concepts in Prior Learning Assessment

CHALLENGE EXAMS

EMPLOYER TRAINING EVALUATED BY ACE

MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE

CHALLENGE PORTFOLIOS FOR STUDENTS
WITH SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENTIAL
LEARNING

GOAL:



How do we achieve success?



Are we promising the moon?

Answer.

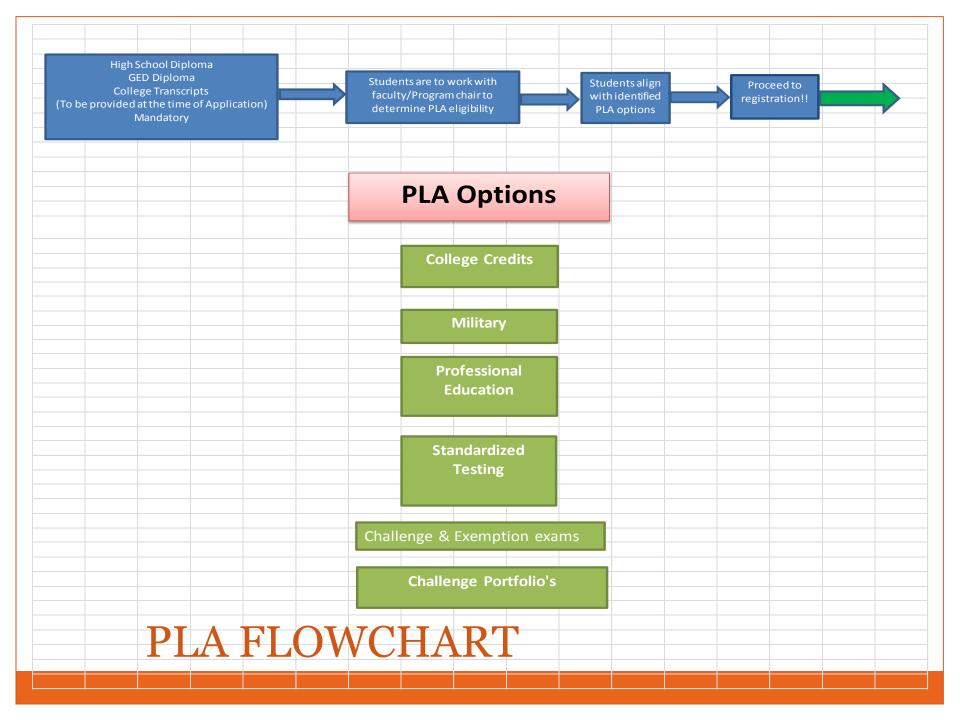


DEVELOP A PLA POLICY TO INCLUDE

PROCESS MAP
AND

TRAINING









Challenge

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- For students with extensive experiential learning challenging multiple courses in a given field of study;
- Courses where significant demonstration is required to validate learning;
- Must complete English Composition requirements;
- Must enroll in and complete <u>Portfolio Course</u>



HOW and WHY Why?

why





How?



How?





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HOW?



Question Bank





Questions/answers costs



Questions

What are the costs for PLA?

Is there a separate fee structure for Exam fees and Portfolios?

Can PLA Costs be covered under any state financial aid or workforce development programs?

Answers

rior Learning Assessments





Questions/answers ROI

Questions

Answers

How will PLA's benefit our College?

What is the PLA impact on other institutions?

How often can PLA policies be reviewed for effectiveness?

Prior Learning Assessments



Questions/answers faculty



Questions

Answers

Are we short changing the student? Are we truly approving College level learning?

Will my position with the college be reduced?

How do we monitor Quality Control?

earning Assessments Prior

Technical Details



Questions Questions/answers technical Question Bank Answers

How do we make sure that we are validating all of the students experiences?

Is there a cap on the number of PLA credits that can be earned by the student?

Can PLA credits count towards residency requirements?

Assessments

Rounding 3rd









How can TCSG adopt a PLA policy?

SCALING INITIATIVES

Embracing PLA model introduced by ATCx3

Consortium

Training Faculty & Staff

Raising Awareness





Timeline

- ➤ PLA policy First draft under review by PLA Policy Team
- > PLA policy Revisions due in June
- > PLA Portfolio Course development in June
- > PLA Portfolio rubric developed in June
- Faculty training July and August
- ➤ PLA Student Outreach to potential students and community NOW
- ➤ Implementation: Kickoff 2013-2014 School Year

TCSG PLA Policy

