Definition
Prior learning is the knowledge and skills gained through:
- Work and life experience.
- Military training and experience.
- Formal and informal education and training from in-state and out-of-state institutions, including foreign institutions

Statutes
- RCW 28B.77.230 – Academic credit for prior learning
- RCW 28B.10.053 – Academic credit for military training

Resources
www.wsac.wa.gov/transfers

Updates

2017 Report
- Received data from all publics and all ICWs (60 schools).
- Awarded ACPL credits increased 41 percent.

2016-17 ACPL Student FTE and Credits Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Assessment Examples</th>
<th>Total Students</th>
<th>Total Quarter Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credit by Testing</td>
<td>DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>2,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Experiential Learning</td>
<td>Portfolio Review (college level credits)</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>3,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Challenges</td>
<td>Generally a faculty or department-created course-specific assessment</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>3,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra-Institutional Learning</td>
<td>American Council of Education (ACE) (military completion courses)</td>
<td>1,166</td>
<td>27,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Occupational Crosswalks (Military MOS, other)</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>10,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual Industry Cert (e.g., NCLEX-RN)</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>12,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Students and Credits</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,217</td>
<td>61,341</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WSAC staff analysis of Academic Credit for Prior Learning data collected from institutions (Fall 2017).

Key Recommendations
- Streamline data collection process.
- Develop more consistent policies for awarding credit for military training.
- Develop more crosswalks and increase adoption of crosswalks by institutions.
- Continue to convene the ACPL workgroup semi-annually.

SBCTC Coding Policy
Community and technical colleges must denote the following ACPL categories on transcripts:
- Credit by Testing
- Prior Experiential Learning
- Extra-institutional Learning
- Course Challenges
Transferability

Community and technical colleges (CTCs) guidelines and policies

CTC ACPL guideline
ACPL credits earned at one CTC will be accepted toward the appropriate course or program at any other CTC.

CTC reciprocity policy
Individual courses that meet a Basic Requirement, Distribution Requirement, or diversity requirement in a transfer degree at the sending college will meet the requirement at the receiving college for a similar transfer degree, even if the credit is awarded through ACPL.

The receiving institution will accept an entire DTA distribution area, even if the credit is awarded through ACPL, if all of the following are true:

- The student met the distribution at the sending institution.
- The student maintained a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better.
- The student meets the sending institution’s residency policy.
- The student meets the receiving institution’s continuous enrollment policy.

State transfer policy
- ACPL credit awarding policies must be published.
- Transfer students follow the receiving institution’s ACPL policies.

Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) guidelines
- ACPL credits apply toward the 15-credit limit for restricted subjects.

Assessing Prior Learning

Awarding credit
Colleges award and transcribe academic credit for prior learning when:

- Learning outcomes assessed are equivalent to specific college course outcomes.
- Awarding credit is consistent with the institution’s policies.

Assessment methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>NWCCU Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credit by testing</td>
<td>Standardized exams such as CLEP, DSST</td>
<td>2.C.8 or 2.D.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra-institutional learning</td>
<td>ACE recommendations for military training; industry crosswalks; industry certifications</td>
<td>2.C.8 or 2.D.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course challenges</td>
<td>Written, oral, or demonstration assessments, generally developed by faculty.</td>
<td>2.C.8 or 2.D.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior experiential learning</td>
<td>A portfolio compilation of evidence identifying learning outcomes mastered through a variety of experiences. No more than 25% of credits can be used toward credential.</td>
<td>2.C.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>