

# Credit for Prior Learning..... what is it?

**Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) is college credit awarded for *validated college-level skills and knowledge* gained outside of a college classroom.** Students' knowledge and skills might be gained through experiences such as:

- Military training

Joint Services Transcript • Community College of the Air Force

- Industry training

Micro-credentials (Badges) • Licenses, Certificates

- State/federal government training

National Weather Service • Foreign Service Institute

- Internships, work-based learning, or other industry-based experiential learning

Apprenticeships • Job Training Programs

- Validated volunteer and civic activities

Peace Corps • AmeriCorps • Volunteer Generation Fund

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**Key changes to Title 5, section 55050**  
systemwide memo **ESS 20-300-01**

The CPL policy is designed to help community colleges meet goals and commitments outlined in the *Vision for Success*, including **increasing degree and certificate completion**, **closing equity gaps**, and **meeting California's projected workforce demands**.

Policy reforms encourage districts and colleges to **provide students consistent and equitable access to CPL**, to **promote quality, integrity, and equity in the award of credit**

# Students who earn CPL ....

**Accumulate more credits through coursework** at the institution than their counterparts, which translates to increased enrollment for colleges

**Save an average of 6-10 months in time to degree** compared to their non-CPL counterparts

Are roughly **twice as likely to complete a degree**

# SMCCCD Credit for Prior Learning.....Methods of Assessment

## We already award CPL credit for .....

### ● External Exams – AP, IB, and CLEP

SMCCCD already awards *hundreds of units* every year to students who have passed an external exam.

### ● Credit by Exam

SMCCCD programs already use Credit by Exam to validate students previous learning, for example, this type of assessment is commonly requested by students with language skills other than English.

## What's new?

### ● Military Transcript

Right now, SMCCCD veteran students **only receive 6 units** of credit for their previous military experience

- **3 units** toward **local or CSU GE** Lifelong Learning / Physical Activity requirements
- **3 units** of **elective credit**

With CPL, our programs can now validate the expertise that our veteran students possess, by awarding many more credits for knowledge and skills they mastered during military service.

### ● Industry Recognized Credentials

CTE coursework is generally aligned to industry excellence standards.

Awarding CPL validates the skills and knowledge a student has already achieved and encourages them to pursue higher-level skills and credentials.

### ● Portfolio Review

Portfolio Assessment provides students an opportunity to demonstrate that they have met the Learning Outcomes of a course.

The process of developing a portfolio is educationally valuable.

# Two categories of CPL Assessment Processes

## Articulation

- Course evaluation one time, applied many times
- Faculty evaluation of course comparability (content, SLOs)
- Applies to, **Military Transcript Review, Industry Recognized Credentials, External Exams**

## Student Evaluation

- One time, discipline faculty evaluate an individual student.
- Evaluation of a student's mastery of course content (SLOs), a grade is awarded.
- Applies to, **Credit by Exam** and **Portfolio Review**

## **\*NEW Military Credit & Industry Recognized Credentials**

The articulation process is the most complex to implement, and most commonly used for awarding CPL credit, goal is to pilot in 2022-2023

**Military Credit** – approximate number (359) of JSTs districtwide, SP2022

<b>Canada</b>	<b>CSM</b>	<b>Skyline</b>
<b>66</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>170</b>

### **Credit by Exam** – number of petitions districtwide (76)

Mar 2018 – March 2019  
**48**

Apr 2019 – Jan 2020  
**0**

Feb 2020– Jan 2022  
**28**

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Pre-Covid period

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Covid period

### Curriculum

- Title 5, 55050.a - Each community college district **shall adopt and publish policies** pertaining to Credit for Prior Learning – *SMCCCD BP 6.18 and AP 6.18.1*
- Title 5, 55050.c - Affirms the nature and content of the **assessment shall be determined solely by discipline faculty.**
- Title 5, 55050.d - Colleges shall use the credit recommendations of the **American Council on Education** (ACE)
- Apply credit to IGETC, CSU GE Breadth, local community college **general education requirements, or requirements for a student's chosen program.** CPL must be tied to a course so faculty can assess prior learning according to a course's SLOs.
- Title 5, 55050.g - Grading shall be according to the regular grading system ... except that **students shall be offered a "pass-no pass" option if that option is ordinarily available for the course.**

### Students

- Title 5, 55050.f - The Student's **academic record shall be clearly annotated to reflect that credit was earned by assessment of prior learning.**
- Title 5, 55050.j - If a student is a veteran or active member of the armed forces, holds industry-recognized credentials, or requests credit for a course based upon their prior learning; upon **completion of a Student Education Plan**, a student shall be referred to the appropriate authority for assessment for prior learning.
- Title 5, 55050.k - Policies for assessments shall **offer students an opportunity to accept, decline, or appeal decisions** related to the award of credit.

# CPL and Transfer .... it's happening!

Except at UC

The **CSU system** updated their CPL Policy CSU EO 1036, it **requires CSU campuses to allow CPL credit for pass-along**

If possible, CPL credit should ***first*** be awarded to **CSU GE Breadth, IGETC, local general education, or Major requirements**

**CSU faculty** shall consider the **credit recommendations of the American Council on Education (ACE)**

# CPL Faculty Workgroup

One CPL faculty lead from each campus

+ Chris Walker (CSM) + Marianne Beck (SKY)

Two academic year term (FA2022-SP2024)

- Train discipline faculty on the evaluation process and American Council on Education (ACE) recommendations
- Coordinate the cross-walking of college curriculum with CPL assessment methods