

Main Street Credits

During your life time you often acquire learning that may be of college level quality and may be able to receive college credit for your prior learning. Sources of college-level learning include employer and workforce training, military service, on-the-job training, volunteer experiences, and independent study. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) refers to the methods used to evaluate whether prior learning meets college-level standards. Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) means the actual recognition and award of credit to students for their prior learning.

Students who receive credits through Prior Learning Assessment typically:

- Save the student's time and money
- Reach their career goals sooner
- Have higher graduation rates and graduate sooner than their non PLA peers
- Gain confidence that they have what it takes to acquire college level learning
- Are encouraged to pursue additional education

How do I demonstrate that I have college level learning?

There are a number of ways you can demonstrate you have college level learning that is worthy of college credit at Nashua Community College, including College Level Examination Program (CLEP), Credit by Exam and Credit by Portfolio.

Receiving credit for prior learning:

You must declare a major at NCC to be eligible to apply for prior learning assessment credit. Credit is awarded only for learning skills, and not for experience. You must demonstrate that the learning acquired is at the college level. Financial Aid is not available for credit by exam or portfolio. Contact the Program Coordinator to determine which process is acceptable for the course for which you believe you have acquired equivalent learning.

CLEP EXAMS

You may choose to earn credits by taking a nationally standardized exam known as CLEP (College Level Examination Program). Nashua Community College is an approved testing site for CLEP. The college through CLEP awards credits for courses in the areas of Composition and Literature, Foreign Languages, Social Sciences, Science and Mathematics. A complete list of the CLEP exams accepted for credit by NCC is available on our website as well as in the Admissions Office and the Academic Advising Center.

CREDIT BY EXAM

If you have declared a major, you may earn Credit by Examination. When, by study, training, or experience outside the College, you have acquired skills or knowledge equivalent to that acquired by students enrolled in a course at the College. You may

challenge a course by requesting and completing an examination or evaluation that covers the instructional material of the course. If successful, the appropriate credits earned are applied to completion of your program.

CREDIT BY PORTFOLIO

A portfolio is documentation of your past learning which has been prepared and presented by you to the college as part of a petition requesting credit for learning outside of a college classroom. A faculty assessor will be appointed to review your portfolio for college credit.

Earn Credit for What you know

This project was funded by a \$2.5 million, grant awarded under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grants, as implemented by the U.S. Dept. of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. Nashua Community College is an equal opportunity employer/program and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Contact Precision Manufacturing and Mechanical Design Technology

Mark Dodge – mdodge@ccsnh.edu | (603) 578-8900 X1611

Doug Howe – dmhowe@ccsnh.edu | (603) 578-8900 X1639