

# CSU Systemwide Policy on Credit for Prior Learning

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## Earlier policy (EO1036)

# Addresses three types of “credit for prior learning”

- Examinations – instructor-created “challenge exams” & standardized external exams, i.e., CLEP, AP, IB
- Experiential learning – portfolios or other evidence of learning outside the classroom
- Military & Industry training and credentials
- CSU campuses have policies that need updating.

# Catalyst for revisions

- CCC Title 5 changes: now requires CPL transcribed as specific course
- Increase in military credits and updated documentation
- Consistent with Dept. of Ed move away from “seat-time” to SLO completion
- Recent legislation that requires military-affiliated students to have access to CPL
- Research indicating benefit to students: reduce equity gaps, increase persistence, reduce time to graduation, increase in credits earned

# CSU Credit for Prior Learning

- Policy Stat: Calstate.policystat.com 
- Searchable site for all CSU policies
- <https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/9817841/latest/>

# Summary of changes

- Change in **title** to reflect current terminology
- **Military training**: New section with updated language & references
- Affirmation of long-standing **transfer policy**; transcribed course will continue to transfer, regardless of source of credit
- Applicability to **undergraduate & graduate** credits
- More explicit guidance to award **CPL credit as a course** or university degree requirement, i.e., GE.
- Reference to campus **appeal process** to address CPL awards
- Stronger language allowing **challenge exams** upon student request
- Applies to **all programs**, state and self-support.

# Policy addresses 4 types of prior learning credit



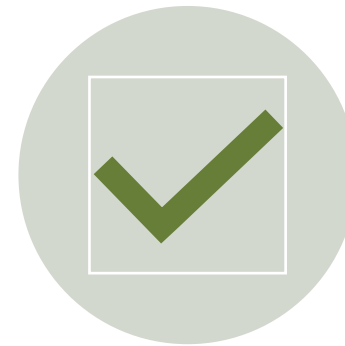
Examinations – instructor-created “challenge exams” & standardized external exams, i.e., CLEP, AP, IB



Experiential learning – portfolios or other evidence



Industry & workplace credentials



Military credits

# Article 1 Academic Credit for Exams

- **Challenge exams** "shall" be offered in response to student request, and in accordance with campus process and policy.
- **Standardized exams:** AP, IB, CLEP
- Avoid duplicative credit
- Systemwide general education eligibility determined by the Chancellor's General Education Advisory Committee.
- See CSU Systemwide [Credit for External Examinations](#) in Calstate.policystat.com

## **Credit awarded thru Associate Degrees for Transfer (from the External Exam policy)**

"When within the Associate Degree for Transfer (AA-T/AS-T) a CCC awards course equivalency credit for a CSU-approved standardized external exam – and the student's transcript is annotated to reflect the course to which credit was earned – the CSU campus shall accept the course units awarded. These units shall be applied toward the lower –division minimum unit requirement for the CSU degree and, if applicable, toward meeting the minimum unit designation for the major or GE-Breadth."



## **Article 2 Credit for Demonstrated Learning, Knowledge or Skills acquired through Experience**

- Conditions of award: matriculated student, reviewed according to campus policy, completed at least 15 units (UG) or 3 units (Grad)
- Awarded through a prior learning assessment by faculty or subject matter expert
- Credit awarded as a specific course
- Identified on student's transcript

## **Article 3 Credit for prior learning acquired outside of traditional higher education**

- Recommendations provided by National College Credit Recommendation Service and the American Council on Education (ACE).
- Pertains to industry recognized credentials
- Credit awarded for a specific course on transcript

# Article 4 Credit for Training in the U.S. Armed Forces

- Regionally accredited education vs. Formal military training
- Federal and state law requires assessment of prior learning [38 CFR § 21.4253 (d)(3)] and AB1002
  - “Appropriate Credit” must be awarded and training time shortened accordingly
- American Council on Education (ACE) Military Guide
  - On-site faculty assessment of curriculum and training
  - ACE Military Guide – Updated and modernized in April 2021

# Application of CPL

- Shall be awarded for a specific university course or a specific category of university degree credit.
- Each campus shall determine if applied as major, GE or elective.
- In an ADT, full or partial CSU GE certification CCC transcribed CPL shall be accepted for articulation and transfer.
- Students shall be allowed to appeal decisions regarding CPL.

## Questions?

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# Potential impact on CSU campuses?

- Students may be more likely to request CPL
- Develop/refresh and post campus **policy**
- Develop/update campus **procedures** for evaluating students' prior learning and possible credit award, including:
  - Fee? (except for veterans)
  - Faculty compensation?
  - Advising implications?

# What is CPL? **Baccalaureate level learning that was gained outside of a traditional higher education setting**

**Students' knowledge and skills might be gained through experiences such as**

- Military training
- Industry training
- State/federal government training
- Volunteer and civic activities (e.g., Peace Corps)
- Apprenticeships, internships, work-based learning, or other industry-based experiential learning

**CPL is NOT:**

- awarded for knowledge and skills already assessed and awarded credit through formal education at regionally accredited in-state and out-of-state institutions
- Awarded for experience; credit is awarded for learning, as assessed by disciplinary experts