

# WHAT IS CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING (CPL)?

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) is a process of evaluating your learning and awarding college credit based on the demonstration of college-level learning gained through experience.

Western Technical College evaluates learning based on course competencies and through various methods of CPL assessment, you can save you time and money because you may not be required to take courses that you can show satisfactory college-level learning. CPL is awarded only for **learning** and not for **experience**.

How do you know if this is right for you? If you are interested in earning credit for prior learning or want more information, contact:

## TRACY NOYES

Credit for Prior Learning  
Flexible Learning Division

Western Technical College  
400 Seventh Street North  
La Crosse, WI 54601

608-785-9441  
cpl@westerntc.edu



# CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

## EARN CREDIT FOR WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW!

Through previous knowledge and skills acquired from other learning sources, such as:

- Work Experience
- Professional/Corporate Training
- Military Training
- Extensive Self-Instruction
- Certifications
- Apprenticeships
- Volunteer Work

You can earn credit saving you time & money! To get started, schedule an appointment today!



# SIX METHODS FOR AWARDING CPL:

You can earn credit through one of these six methods below or a combination.

## 1. STANDARD EXAMS:

Standardized exams are written by professional testing companies or private universities and are administered in licensed testing sites. Currently, Western accepts:

- College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST)
- Advanced Placement (AP) exams

For a complete list of the CLEP, DSST and AP exams currently accepted at Western, visit:

[www.westernnc.edu/credit-prior-learning](http://www.westernnc.edu/credit-prior-learning)

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE EXAMS:

Challenge exams are written by Western Technical College faculty specifically for its students. The exams are equivalent to the comprehensive final exam and maybe written, oral, demonstration or a combination of all three.

For a complete list of Challenge Exams currently offered at Western, visit:

[www.westernnc.edu/credit-prior-learning](http://www.westernnc.edu/credit-prior-learning)

## 3. MILITARY TRAINING AND SERVICE:

Veterans and service members can earn credit for military training and service through an evaluation of your Joint Service Transcript (JST). Certain military courses and occupational exhibits along with their ACE credit recommendations have been established for specific courses at Western Technical College.

In addition to a JST review, Western Technical College has a Military CPL Agreement based on years of service. Qualifying veterans can earn up to 10 credits in General Studies coursework.

For a complete list of military CPL opportunities currently offered at Western, visit:

[www.westernnc.edu/credit-prior-learning](http://www.westernnc.edu/credit-prior-learning)

Contact the Veterans Specialist to determine military transfer, credits and more information:

[speropulosp@westernnc.edu](mailto:speropulosp@westernnc.edu); 608-789-4767

## 4. WORKFORCE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS:

Workforce training and national certifications that have been developed to meet industry/professional standards and evaluated by The American Council on Education (ACE) or other nationally recognized organizations can earn you credit.

## 5. PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT:

A portfolio documents the college-level learning you've gained through work and other experiences. It validates your knowledge and skills that meet the competencies for the course(s) you are pursuing for credit. Various methods to demonstrate college-level learning include:

- Resume, autobiography
- Written narrative/reflection
- Performance evaluations
- Professional development plans
- Letters of recommendation, awards
- Testimony
- Examples of product, artwork, blueprints, models
- Newspaper/magazine clippings
- Military transcripts, training, and certifications
- Published books/articles
- Licenses/certifications
- Speeches or audio-visual presentations (live/video-taped)
- Demonstration (live/video-taped)
- Business plan, project management plan, management reports, budgets
- Research report, concept map
- Discussion/interview

## 6. CREDIT TRANSFER:

Students who have earned credits from other educational institutions can request Credit Transfer which can help you save time and money. Credit Transfer from another regionally accredited college, technical college, high school transcribed credit, or university maybe awarded for course work when earning a "C" or higher.

Contact the Transfer Credit/Graduation Assistant to determine what credits will be counted toward your program requirements:

[allent@westernnc.edu](mailto:allent@westernnc.edu); 608-785-9221

