



Book	VCCCD Administrative Procedure Manual
Section	Chapter 4 Academic Affairs
Title	AP 4235 Credit for Prior Learning
Code	AP 4235
Status	Active
Legal	Education Code, Section 66025.71 Education Code, Section 78212 Education Code, Section 79500 Title 5, Section 55002 Title 5, Section 55023 Title 5, Section 55050 Title 5, Section 55051 Title 5, Section 55052
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Granting unit credit for prior learning is based on the principle that previous experience, training, or instruction is the equivalent of a specific course taught by the college. Course and unit credit can be obtained through the credit for External Examinations process (AP/IB/CLEP), Internal Departmental Examinations process (locally administered exams), High School to College Articulation process, or Evaluation of Joint Services Transcripts (JST), Student-Created Portfolios, or Industry-Recognized Documentation, Credentials or Licensure.

Courses Eligible for Credit for Prior Learning:

- All courses shall be open to Credit for Prior Learning unless specifically exempted by the District College.
- Academic divisions of the District Colleges determine the courses for which Credit for Prior Learning may be granted.
- The Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs at each District College maintains a current list of courses excluded from Credit for Prior Learning and makes it readily available to students.

Documentation of Credit for Prior Learning:

- For credit earned through the Credit for Prior Learning provisions, the student's academic record shall be clearly annotated to reflect that credit was earned by examination, through articulation, or by another type of assessment of prior learning.

Credit for Prior Learning may be obtained by one or a combination of two of the following assessment methods:

I. External Examinations (this method cannot be combined with another assessment method for granting CPL for any single course):

- a. Advanced Placement (AP): Students who earn scores of 3, 4 or 5 on the College Board AP Examinations taken before high school graduation will receive credit for each exam as specified in the catalog of the District College.
- b. International Baccalaureate (IB): Students who complete the IB diploma with a score of 30 or above, will receive 20 units of credit. Students who complete the IB Higher Level examinations with scores of 4, 5, 6 or 7 will receive credit for each exam as specified in the catalog of the District College. A score of 4 or higher on the IB Mathematics HL exam will satisfy the math competency requirement for the associate degree. Students will not receive credit for Standard Level exams.
- c. College Level Examination Program (CLEP): Students who earn scores of 50 or higher on a CLEP exam will receive credit for each exam as specified in the catalog of the District College.

Cut Scores

- The number of units awarded for each type of examination is subject to change based on the establishment of cut scores and/or other evaluative measures developed by District College faculty in collaboration with Academic Senates and/or a CSU Chancellor's Office policy pursuant to AB 1985, and/or Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) Standards, Policies, and Procedures latest version.

Credit for External Examinations (AP, IB and CLEP):

- The evaluation of credit for AP, IB and CLEP examination scores is done by a college counselor. Counselors may require additional documentation or information as necessary to determine eligibility for external credit.
- Credit granted for the examinations may be counted as credit toward an associate degree. The Counseling faculty at each District College will determine how the credit is used to satisfy general education and major requirements for the associate degree.
- Credit granted for these examinations may also be counted toward the satisfaction of IGETC or CSU-GE Breadth areas as allowed by the applicable standards for each form of transfer general education certification.
- Credit awarded for AP, IB and CLEP examinations shall not impact the student's GPA.
- Students granted credit for AP, IB or CLEP examinations shall not earn credit toward an associate degree for duplicated college courses.
- Other colleges or universities may have different policies concerning the granting of credit for AP, IB and CLEP examinations, and will evaluate the examinations based upon their own policies and practices.

II. Internal Departmental Examinations: (Locally administered exams):

- a. Students will receive credit by satisfactory completion of an examination administered by the District College in lieu of completion of a course listed in the college catalog, provided that Internal Departmental Examination is permitted for the course. See the Courses Excluded

from Internal Departmental Examination list maintained by each District College. Credit will be awarded with a letter grade and/or P/NP (if the latter is ordinarily available for the course). If a letter grade is awarded, it will be incorporated in the computation of the student's grade point average.

- b. A student may be granted credit if he or she satisfactorily passes an examination approved and conducted by the District College discipline faculty. Such credit may be granted only to a student who is registered at the District College and not on either academic probation or progress probation, and only for a course listed in the District College's catalog.
- c. The nature and content of the exam shall be determined solely by the District College discipline faculty in accordance with Title 5 Section 55002.
- d. Units for which credit is given pursuant to this provision shall not be counted in determining the 12 semester hours of credit in residency requirement for an associate degree.
- e. A District College shall charge a student a fee for administering an examination pursuant to this provision which is equal to the enrollment fee for the course.

Internal Departmental Examinations:

1. Determination of Eligibility:

- The examination is to be administered prior to the last day of the final examination period.
- The course to which the units will apply must be listed in the current college catalog.
- The student must be currently registered and in good standing and not on academic probation, progress probation, or dismissal at any District College.
- The student has not earned college credit in more advanced subject-matter, and has not received a grade (A, B, C, D, F, W, CR, P, CRE, NC or NP or equivalent), in the course for which he or she is seeking Credit by Examination at a District College or at any other educational institution.

2. Procedure to Receive Credit for Internal Departmental Examination:

- A Credit for Prior Learning Assessment Petition must be completed by the student and a college counselor, and forwarded to the appropriate academic division for administration of the examination no later than Friday of the sixth week of the full-length semester.
- The petitions must be first be approved by the administering instructor, then by the division dean.
- Upon approval by the division dean the petition must be returned to the administering instructor no later than Friday of the tenth week of the full-length semester.
- The administering instructor will administer the Internal Departmental Examination, document the results on the petition form, and sign and return the form to the division dean.
- The division dean will sign and return the signed and completed form to the Admissions and Record Office for processing by the deadline for the submission of grades for that semester.

3. Units and Grades Recorded for Internal Departmental Examination:

- Transcript entries shall distinguish units of credit obtained by internal Departmental Examination from units of credit obtained as a result of regular course enrollment.
- A student seeking credit by Internal Departmental Examination will receive the appropriate grade (A, B, C, D, F, or P/NP) and that grade (other than P/NP) will be incorporated into the student's cumulative GPA, and the student will be charged the current enrollment fee per unit regardless of the grade received.

III. High School to College Articulation (this method cannot be combined with another assessment method for granting CPL for any single course):

High school students may be granted college credit pursuant to established articulation agreements between the high school and a District College. The Board of Trustees shall permit articulated courses to be applied to certificate or associate degree requirements in accordance with this provision. The per-unit fee for high school credit by examination will not be charged. Articulated high school courses may be accepted in lieu of comparable District College courses to partially satisfy:

- a. Certificate requirements, including the total number of units required for the certificate; or
- b. The major or area of emphasis requirements in a degree program. Students who complete articulated comparable courses must pass an exam to earn college credit for general education and/or major requirements for the associate degree.

Credit by Examination for a High School Articulated Course:

1. Determination of Eligibility

- The course to which the units will apply must be listed in the current college catalog.
- The student must be currently registered at a high school with which a District College has an articulation agreement and in good standing as defined by their cumulative GPA at a minimum of 2.0 at the time the Credit by Examination is granted.
- The student has not earned college credit in more advanced subject-matter, and has not received a grade (A, B, C, D, F, W, CR, CRE, NC, NP, or equivalent), in the course for which he or she is seeking Credit by Examination at a District College or at any other educational institution.

2. Receiving Credit by Examination

- The student will apply online to one of the colleges in the VCCCD and create an account in a District tracking system.
- The student passes the college's course via a comprehensive exam or evaluation determined solely by a District College faculty in the discipline.

3. Units and Grades Recorded

- A student who successfully passes the examination will be given a letter grade (A, B, or C) "Credit by Examination" will be transcribed for the term in which it was earned.
- A student who is unsuccessful in obtaining a standard grade of "C" or better will not be allowed to petition for credit and no record of the attempt for credit by examination will appear on the student's transcript.

IV. Credit for Military Service/Training

Students interested in Credit for Prior Learning using Joint Service Transcripts shall receive credit as recommended by the American Council on Education (ACE) Directory and approved by the appropriate discipline faculty of a District College under the following circumstances:

- The student shall complete the Credit for Prior Learning assessment petition.
- Official transcripts must be on file in the Admissions and Records Office. These may include Joint Services Transcript (JST), Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART), Army and American Council on Education Registry Transcript Service (AARTS), Community College of the Air Force (CCAF), Coast Guard Institute (CGI), DANTES/USAFI, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) Transcripts, Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), DLPT Examinee Results, DA Form 330 Language Proficiency Questionnaire, or verified copies of DD214 or DD295 military records.
- Credit course equivalency shall be determined by the faculty of the appropriate discipline.

V. Industry-Recognized Credentials or Licensure Documentation

Students interested in Credit for Prior Learning using industry recognized credential(s) or licensure shall receive credit as determined solely by the faculty of the appropriate discipline:

- The student shall complete the Credit for Prior Learning assessment petition.
- Admissions and Records shall grant credit for industry recognized credential(s) or licensure that have already been evaluated and approved by the appropriate department chair or faculty designee.
- If an industry recognized credential(s) or licensure has not yet been evaluated and approved by the appropriate faculty:
 - The student meets with the department chair or faculty designee to receive further instructions for industry recognized credential(s) or licensure assessment.
 - The student submits all industry recognized credential documents or license copies to the department chair or faculty designee for assessment of prior learning.
 - If the department chair or faculty designee determine the industry certification or licensure adequately measures mastery of the course content as set forth in the Course Outline of Record, the appropriate faculty shall sign the petition with the recorded grade, attach the industry recognized credential(s) or license copies, and forward the completed petition and supporting documents to the Admissions and Records Office to be kept on file and recorded on the student's transcript.

VI. Student-Created Portfolio Assessment

Students interested in Credit for Prior Learning using a student-created portfolio shall receive credit as recommended by the appropriate department chair or faculty designee under the following circumstances:

- A department approved portfolio assessment rubric for the course is on file.
- The student shall complete the Credit for Prior Learning assessment petition.
- The student meets with the department chair or faculty designee to receive further instructions for student-created portfolio assessment.
- The student submits all portfolio documents to the department chair or faculty designee for assessment of prior learning.
- If the department chair or faculty designee determine the student-created portfolio adequately measures mastery of the course content as set forth in the Course Outline of Record, the appropriate faculty shall sign the petition with the appropriate grade and forward it to the Admissions and Records Office to be kept on file and recorded on the student's transcript

Limits of Credit for Prior Learning (All Methods, except External Examinations (AP/IB/CLEP) and High School Articulation):

- Students may apply for Credit for Prior Learning for a given course only once.
- Students should be aware that other colleges and universities may not accept credit for prior learning for transfer purposes, including but not limited to meeting pre-major, major and/or other requirements.
- Students should be advised that the use of units granted through the credit for prior learning policy towards establishing eligibility for athletics, financial aid, and veterans' benefits are subject to the rules and regulations of the external agencies involved. (Exceptions to the above may be made when necessary to meet provisions of California state law or the rules and regulations of state agencies governing programs of the California Community Colleges.)
- Credits earned through the Credit for Prior Learning process are not applicable to meeting of such unit load requirements as Selective Service deferment, Veterans, or Social Security benefits.
- Credit by Examination (Internal Departmental Examination) may be granted in only one course in a sequence of courses within a single discipline, as determined by prerequisites.
- If a student is currently enrolled in a course or has completed the course, he/she will not be eligible to earn credit through Credit for Prior Learning for any prerequisite to that course.
- A student who attempted a course one or more times and did not successfully complete the course is not eligible to apply for CPL for that course or for a comparable course at another district college.
- Credits acquired by credit for prior learning are not counted in determining the 12 semester units of credit in residency required for an associate degree.
- A maximum of 50% of the units required for an associate degree (except the Associate Degree for Transfer and UC Transfer Pathways degree, which have no limit) or Certificate of Achievement may be applied through Credit for Prior Learning. Additional units may be granted upon review and approval by the VPAA or his/her designee. This limitation does not apply to units of credit earned through external examinations (AP/IB/CLEP or High School Articulation)

Documentation of Allowable Credit Awards

Each District College shall maintain records of the courses for which units of credit may be granted through Credit for Prior Learning. These records shall be maintained either in the Office of Academic Affairs or in the Student Services Office.

Advisement

- A student, upon completion of their educational plan, shall be referred to the college's appropriate authority for assessment of prior learning if the student is a veteran or an active-duty member of the armed forces, holds industry-recognized credentials or licensure, or requests credit for a course based on their prior learning.
- Colleges shall consider the credit recommendations of the American Council on Education (ACE) pursuant to Education Code section 66025.71
- Grading shall be according to the regular grading system approved by the governing board pursuant to section 55023, except that students shall be offered a "pass-no pass" option if that option is ordinarily available for the course.
- Students shall be given the opportunity to accept, decline, or appeal the grade assigned by the faculty, and in cases of Credit by Examination, pursuant to AP 4230 Grading and Academic Record Symbols and AP 4231 Grade Changes

Reference Board Policy [4235 Credit for Prior Learning](#), Board Policy [4050 Articulation](#) and Administrative Procedure [4050 Articulation with Baccalaureate Institutions](#), and Administrative Procedure [4051 Articulation with High Schools](#).

Governance Review

2021 05.25 Board of Trustees
2021 05.11 Board of Trustees (proposed)
2021 04.20 Chancellor's Cabinet
2021 04.19 Chancellor's Cabinet (rescheduled)
2021 04.08 DTRW-I
2021 03.11 DTRW-I
2020 11.10 Board of Trustees
2020 10.22 Policy, Planning and Student Success Committee
2020 10.12 Chancellor's Cabinet
2020 09.10 DTRW-I

