

Academic Affairs Policy 2.23 FAQs

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

1. What is included under the PLA umbrella?

- The new PLA policy recognizes all methods of learning; examples may include: undergraduate college credit, certification of advanced standing, certification of workforce credentials, and military credentials and certification.
- The policy provides guidelines for the evaluation, awarding, and transfer of college-level work completed outside of college.

2. What is Standardized PLA?

- Standardized PLA credit is awarded based on objective measures with a uniform or standardized instrument designed to measure specific learning outcomes in the subject matter.
- EXAMPLES include but are not limited to AP, ALEKS, CLEP, IB, IBC, DSST, and other military exams or training.
 - When awarding credit to students who are veterans or military service members, the institution will reference the Joint Services Transcript (JST), DD-214, and/or transcripts from the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS), Community College of Air Force (CCAF), and Coast Guard Institute (CGI).

3. What is Non-Standardized PLA?

- Non-Standardized credit is awarded based on the evaluation of a portfolio of professional or life experience or based on a faculty-developed institutional challenge exam.
- EXAMPLES include but are not limited to industry-based training, continuing professional development courses (CEUs), and work or volunteer experiences.

4. Is credit awarded to students who achieve certain scores on the ACT/SAT and is awarded credit considered PLA?

- Yes, this is considered PLA; code “S.”

5. How is dual enrollment credit awarded? Is dual enrollment considered PLA?

- DE courses are not considered PLA.
- Those courses are submitted with regular SSPS reports when the student enrolls in and takes the course.

6. What is an IBC, and how do we code it?

- An IBC is an industry-based credential.

- Such credentials are usually issued by an industry or industry group, to verify that an individual has met the skill standards established by that industry or industry group as minimal requirements to successfully enter the workforce and compete in that particular occupational area. Certifications normally have a finite life, and a recertification process must be undertaken to keep the certification in force. (Louisiana Workforce Commission definition)
 - Credit awarded for an IBC is coded with a “W.”
7. Where can we find more information on recommended resources such as “articulation tables governing the acceptance of standardized tests, such as ACE military guide and Regents AP/CLEP table.”
- The Regents AP/CLEP table can be found here:
<https://www.laregents.edu/articulationandtransfer/>
 - The American College of Education (ACE) Military Guide can be found here:
<https://www.acenet.edu/Programs-Services/Pages/Credit-Transcripts/Military-Guide-Online.aspx>
 - The American College of Education (ACE) National Guide can be found here:
<https://www.acenet.edu/National-Guide/Pages/default.aspx>
8. When we report PLA, do we only report the code in field position 178, or do we also report the course abbreviation, CIP, course number, credit hours, and course grade associated with the PLA?
- A course grade is not required, but the field cannot be left blank. If no grade is given, enter “NG” in the grade field.
 - The credit awarded will not be included in student credit hours counted in the funding formula; therefore, it is important that all PLA be identified with a term part of “Z.”
 - The institutional course abbreviation, course number, CIP code, and associated course hours must be identified in applicable fields in the format identified in the SSPS file specifications.
 - If credit is not awarded for a specific course, course information must be aligned with the discipline or general education category (course abbreviation), level (course number), and subject content (CIP code), in addition to hours awarded. The format must align with SSPS file specifications.
 - Grades are a required field in SSPS reporting; however, “NG” (No Grade) and “P” (Pass) are valid options.
 - Refer to the technical document, which can be found on our website under Data and Publications.
9. If a student is awarded credit for English 101 and/or Math 101 based on their ACT/SAT score(s), should that be reported as PLA? And if so, how should that credit be coded?
- Refer to question 4.
 - It is considered PLA and reported as “S.”

10. When is PLA data reported?

- Report Summer and Fall PLA data using the **Fall Intercession** term code.
- Report Winter and Spring PLA data using the **Spring Intercession** term code.
- Reporting deadlines will be provided on Regents' Reporting Calendar.