Academic Affairs Policy 2.23: Prior Learning Assessment

The Board of Regents seeks to establish guidelines to be used by Louisiana's public postsecondary institutions for the evaluation and awarding of undergraduate credit for college-level learning that has occurred outside of the traditional academic learning environment. Regents aims to ensure students receive appropriate and tangible recognition for college-level learning acquired outside an institution to accelerate degree completion at a reduced cost to the student. A statewide policy governing the evaluation and transfer of PLA credits awarded enables institutions to provide a fair and transparent process for students.

The Board of Regents Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) policy will be used to grant undergraduate college credit, certification, or advanced standing representative of those non-traditional educational experiences toward further education or training.

This policy allows the institution to determine how PLA credit is earned and recorded while placing appropriate and measurable accountability. In every case in which PLA credit is awarded, the institution should ensure that the student's learning matches the learning outcomes of courses and is assessed based on the expectations of equivalent courses found in standard articulation tables such as the Louisiana Common Course Catalog and the Statewide Course Articulation Matrix. Whenever possible, credit equivalent to courses on the Articulation Matrix should be awarded.

Transparency of Policy:

It is incumbent upon institutions to ensure that this policy and all institutional policies governing the awarding of credit for PLA are clearly stated and publicized. Each institution must provide ease of access to and transparency of PLA policy and procedures for prospective and current students.

Institutional policies must:

- Guarantee timely and efficient evaluation of all student requests for PLA.
- Ensure that PLA policies and procedures are incorporated into admissions and other advising practices.
- Ensure that faculty who conduct prior learning assessments are appropriately credentialed and have adequate resources and training to conduct those assessments.
- Include a procedure for removal of excessive credits from a student's transcript that will negatively affect financial aid eligibility.
- 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).

Acceptable forms of PLA:

- Standardized: Credit is awarded based on objective measures that have a uniform or standardized instrument designed to measure specific learning outcomes of the subject matter. Examples include, but are not limited to: AP, CLEP, IBC, DSST, and military exams or training.

- 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.

Evaluation and Transcription/Recording of PLA Credit:

The institution making the initial determination to award PLA credit (both standardized and non-standardized) is responsible for implementing the process for the evaluation and transcription of credit. Institutions may require additional information from the student, such as course descriptions and syllabi, official test scores, or evidence of work, to make the determination.

- Standardized:

Institutions must abide by the standards outlined in approved articulation tables governing the acceptance of standardized tests, such as ACE military guide and Regents AP/CLEP table.

- Non-standardized:
  - Institutional exam
    - Student learning outcomes assessed by the exam should align with common course catalog learning outcomes.
    - Exams should be developed and evaluated by appropriately credentialed faculty with expertise in the field.
  - Portfolios
    - Portfolio evaluation should be conducted by an appropriately credentialed faculty member or content expert in the field/discipline in which the credit is to be awarded.
    - The portfolio review process should align with the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning's (CAEL's) "Ten Standards for Assessing Learning"[1].

> 1) Credit or competencies are awarded only for evidence of learning, not for experience or time spent.
> 2) Assessment is integral to learning because it leads to and enables future learning.
> 3) Assessment is based on criteria for outcomes that are clearly articulated and shared among constituencies.
> 4) The determination of credit awards and competence levels are made by appropriate subject matter and credentialing experts.
> 5) Assessment advances the broader purpose of equity and access for diverse individuals and groups.
> 6) Institutions proactively provide guidance and support for learners' full engagement in the assessment processes.
> 7) Assessment policies and procedures are the result of inclusive deliberation and are shared with all constituencies.
> 8) Fees charged for assessment are based on the services performed in the process rather than the credit awarded.
> 9) All practitioners involved in the assessment process pursue and receive adequate training and continuing professional development for the functions they perform.
> 10) Assessment programs are regularly monitored, evaluated and revised to respond to institutional and learner needs.

Each institution shall maintain a clear policy or policies for evaluating and awarding PLA credit. Where credit will be awarded for courses offered by the institution, a student's prior learning must be evaluated according to the course description and learning outcomes based on the institution's course catalog and the Louisiana Common Course Catalog where appropriate. This credit should be transcripted according to previously established standards by the institution.

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[1] https://www.cael.org/ten-standards-for-assessing-learning

Transfer of PLA Credit:

Credit awarded for courses identified on the Master Course Articulation Matrix via PLA – both standardized and non-standardized – must be accepted by the receiving institution according to course equivalencies on the Matrix. Institutions may also accept credit for courses not on the Matrix.

Institutions receiving previously transcripted PLA credit cannot require duplicate documentation to award credit for PLA. Once PLA credit has been evaluated and posted on the college transcript according to the Louisiana Common Course Catalog, the Statewide Course Articulation Matrix, or other standing tables, it must be treated as transfer work.

Fees for Students Seeking PLA Credit:

The Management Boards should establish policies to limit the fees connected with credit for prior learning. Fees associated with the evaluation and transcription of a portfolio of prior learning should not exceed tuition for one credit hour per portfolio that is assessed. Fees for transcription of PLA credit should not exceed institutional fees for transcription of transfer credit. There should be no PLA fees for veterans, active military personnel, and their spouses and dependents. Costs associated with the awarding of PLA credit should be clearly posted.

Data Reporting:

Institutions shall annually submit data to the Board of Regents relating to the use of PLA at the institution in the manner prescribed by the Board. The Board shall annually analyze and report on the data to ensure compliance with the policy and inform continuous improvement efforts.

Louisiana Public Postsecondary Institutions
Summary Table -- Minimum AP Cut Scores for College Credit

INSTITUTION	Art Hist	Art 2D - Studio	Art 3D - Studio	Art - Draw	Biology	Calc AB	Calc BC	Chem	Comp Sci A	Comp Sci AB	Econ - Macro	Econ - Micro	Eng Lang Comp	Eng Lit	Envtl Sci	Geog - Human	Gov - Comp PolSc	Gov - US PolSci	Hist - Euro	Hist - US	Hist - World	Mus Theo	Phys B	Phys C: E M	Phys C: Mech	Psyc	Statistics	Lang - Chinese	Lang - French	Lang - French Lit	Lang - German	Lang - Ital	Lang - Japns	Lang - Latin Lit	Lan - Latin Virgl	Lang - Spanish	Lang - Span Lit
BPCC	3			3	3	3	3	3	3		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			3	3		3							3	
BRCC	3			3	3	3	3	3	3		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3	3		3	3	3	3	3		3							3	
CLTCC	3			3	3	3	3	3			3	3	3	3			3	3	3	3	3					3			3								3
Delgado	3			3	3	3	3	3	3		3	3	3	3	3	3		3		3	3	3				3	3		3							3	
Fletcher TCC	3				3			3	3	3	3	3	3	3			3	3		3	3	3	3			3	3		3							3	
LA Delta					3			3			3	3	3					3		3	3		3	3	3	3	3		3							3	
Northshore TCC	3				3			3	3	3	3	3	3	3			3	3		3	3	3	3			3	3		3							3	
Nunez	3		3	3				3			3	3	3	3	3			3		3	3					3	3		3							3	
RPCC	3			3	3	3	3	3			3	3	3					3		3	3		3			3			3							3	
SLCC	3		3	3	3	3	3	3			3	3	3	3			3	3	3	3	3					3			3								3
Sowela TCC	3				3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			3		3	3		3			3	3										
LSU E	3				3	3	3	3	3	3			3	3			3	3	3	3			3	3	3	3			3		3					3	3
SUSLA					3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3				3		3			3			3										3	
LSU	3				3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3		3			3	3	3	3
LSU A	3				3	3	3	3			3	3	3				3	3	3	3	3	3				3			3							3	
LSUS	3				3	3	3	3	3		3	3	3	3			3	3	3	3	3					3			3		3					3	
SUBR	3				3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			3		3					3	
SUNO	3				3	3	3	3			3	3	3	3	3		3	3		3	3					3	3									3	3
Grambling	3			3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			3					3	3	3	3	3									3	
LA Tech	3				3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3	3		3	3						3	3
McNeese	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3					3	3	3	
Nicholls	3			3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3		3		3	3		3	3
Northwestern	3		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			3	3	3	3	3		3	3		3	3		3	3	3		3			3	3
Southeastern	3				3	3	3	3			3	3	3	3			3	3	3	3	3		3	3	3	3	3		3		3					3	
UL Lafayette	3				3	3	3	3	3				3				3	3	3	3	3					3			3					3		3	
UL Monroe	3				3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3				3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3		3			3	3	3	
UNO	3		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3	3		3	3		3	3	3	3	3		3		3					3	

Updated January 2023

Louisiana Public Postsecondary Institutions
Summary Table -- Minimum CLEP Cut Scores for College Credit

INSTITUTION	American Literature	Analyzing/Interpreting Literature	College Composition	English Literature	Humanities	French (Level 1 & 2)	German (Level 1 & 2)	Spanish (Level 1 & 2)	American Government	US History - Early to 1877	US History - 1865 to Present	Human Growth & Development	Intro to Educational Psych	Principles of Macroeconomics	Principles of Microeconomics	Intro Psychology	Intro Sociology	Social Sciences & History	Western Civ: Ancient to 1648	Western Cif: 1648 to Present	World Civilization to 1500	World Civilization 1500 to Present	Biology	Calculus	Chemistry	College Algebra	College Mathematics	Natural Sciences	Precalculus	Financial Accounting	Info Systems & Computer Apps	Intro Business Law	Principles of Management	Principles of Marketing
BPCC	50		50	50	50	50-59		50-63	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50		50	50			50	50	50	50			50	50		50	50	50
BRCC	50	50	50	50					50	50	50	50		50	50	50	50				50	50	50	56		50	50		60	50		50	50	50
CLTCC			50			50		50	50	50	50					50	50		50	50			50			50						50		
Delgado	50	50	50*	50		50		50	50	50	50	50		50	50	50	50		50	50			50	50	50	50	50			50	50	50	50	50
Fletcher TCC			50			50		50	50	50	50			50	50	50	50		50	50			50			50	50					50	50	
LA Delta	50	50	50	50	50	50		50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50		50	50			50			50	50			50	50	50	50	50
Northshore TCC	50		50	50	50				50	50	50			50	50	50	50		50	50			50			50	50	50		50	50	50	50	50
Nunez	*50*	50	50	50		50		50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50		50	50			50			50	50	50		50	50	50	50	50
RPCC	50		50	50		50		50	50	50	50		50	50	50	50	50		50	50			50	56	50	50				50			50	50
SLCC	50	50	50	50	50	50-59		50-63	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50			50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Sowela TCC			50	50					50	50	50					50	50		50	50			50			50	50			50	50	50		
LSU E	50	50	50	50		50-59		50	50	50	50					50	50		50	50			50	50	50	50	50	50	50					
SUSLA	50		50			50		50	50	50	50	50		50	50	50	50		50	50			50			50	50				50	50		50
LSU			58			35-50	40-61	40-61	58	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50			50	56	50	50	50	50						
LSU A		50	50			50	50		50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50		50	50			50	56	50	50	50		50					
LSUS			50	50	50	50		50	50	50	50					50	50		50	50			50		50	50					50	50	50	50
SUBR		50	50		50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50		50	50	50	50		50	50			50	50	50	50	50	50		50			50	
SUNO			50						50	50	50					50	50		50	50			50			50	50						50	50
Grambling	50		50	50	50	50	50	50-63	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50			50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
LA Tech	50		50*	50		50-62		50-66	50	50	50			50	50	50	50		50	50			50	50	50	50			50				50	50
McNeese	50		50	50		50/59	50	50/63	50	50	50		50	50	50	50	50		50	50			50		50	50			50	50				
Nicholls	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50			50		50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Northwestern	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50			50		50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Southeastern	60		59	60					50	50	50					50	50		50	50			50			50	50			50	50		50	50
UL Lafayette	50	55*	50			50/59	50/60	50/63	50	50	50			50	50								50	60!	50	50	50		50					
UL Monroe	50	-	55	50	-	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	-	50	50			50	50	50	50		-	50	50	50	50	50	50
UNO	50	50	50	-	-	50	50	50	50	50	50	-	-	50	50	50	50	-	-	-			50	50	50	50	50	-	50	-	50	50	50	50

Submission of an essay is also required at Delgado, Louisiana Tech and UL Lafayette

! Departmental review of educational background and major is also required at UL Lafayette.