



CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING (CPL)

Facts and FAQs

WHAT IS CPL?

CPL (Credit for Prior Learning), sometimes referred to as PLA (Prior Learning Assessment), is as valuable way to earn credit toward your degree or certificate for your previous life and/or work experiences.

HOW CAN I EARN CPL?

At CCA, you can earn CPL through the following methods:

- Standardized Exams (AP, IB, UExcel, DSST/DLPT, or CLEP exams)
- Institutional Challenge Exam
- Portfolio Assessment
- Industry Certifications evaluated by Faculty (including Joint Services Transcripts (JST) for Military/Veteran students)
- Published Guides (such as [American Council on Education \(ACE\) guide](#) for both military and non-military, [National College Credit Recommendations Service](#), and the [CCA PLA Information Dashboard Matrix](#)).

HOW MANY CREDITS CAN I EARN THROUGH CPL?

You can earn up to 75% of your certificate or degree through CPL. 25% must be earned by taking courses at CCA either on-campus, online, or a hybrid of in-person and online classes.

CAN I USE FINANCIAL AID TO PAY FOR CPL FEES?

No, CPL/PLA is not eligible for using Financial Aid because the credit earned does not count towards full or part-time residency. However, in most cases CPL fees are significantly less expensive and saves you a lot of time.

DOES CPL COUNT TOWARDS MY GPA?

No, CPL credits appear on your transcript as "PLA" (for Prior Learning Assessment) and provides you credit for the course without a letter grade. This does not count towards your GPA, or diminish it in any way.

CAN CPL BE APPLIED TO ANY CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE?

Yes, you can earn CPL for ANY course in our CCA catalog as long as it is a required part of your certificate or degree program. This includes having the ability to challenge any required general education courses for CPL credit.

WILL CPL EARNED AT CCA TRANSFER TO ANOTHER COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY?

Policies on awarding transfer credit vary from school to school. Our policy at CCA is to accept all CPL/PLA credits that are transferred into our institution. However, while most colleges will accept CPL/PLA credits transferred in, we cannot guarantee they will be accepted. If you earned CPL during your time at CCA and encounter an issue with transferability to a different college or university, you will have to pursue an appeal with the institution you are transferring to.

HOW SOON WILL I SEE CPL APPLIED TO MY TRANSCRIPT?

You will see CPL/PLA credit applied to your transcript (if earned) within 30 days of the Credential Evaluator receiving your information whether that is documentation you sent directly to them for Standardized Tests or Published Guides, or the results that a Department Chair sends them from a Challenge Exam, Portfolio Assessment, or Workplace/Industry Credential Evaluation.

HOW DO I GET STARTED? HOW IS CPL SUBMITTED?

If you are interested in pursuing a Challenge Exam, Portfolio Assessment, or having your workplace/industry credentials evaluated for credit, use this link to set up a meeting with the Department Chair that will be overseeing your assessment or evaluation: [CPL Interest Request to Dept. Chair](#)

If you would like to take either a CLEP or DSST exam through the CCA Testing Center, visit this page to schedule your exam: [CCA Testing Center](#)

If you have already completed a Standardized exam, or have experience that is mapped to a Published Guide, send your information to CCA's Credential Evaluator by one of the following methods:

Email: records@ccaaurora.edu

OR

Mail: Credentials Evaluator
CentreTech Campus
16000 E. CentreTech Pkwy
Aurora, CO 80011

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS, PLEASE
SET UP A MEETING WITH A [CCA ACADEMIC ADVISOR](#).**

