



WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

EDUCATION › OPPORTUNITY › RESULTS

Assessing & Awarding Credit for Prior Learning in Washington State

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Washington PLA Workgroup

Recommended in 2010.
Created by Legislature in 2011.
Reaffirmed in 2012 (RCW 28B.77.230).

The council shall convene the Academic Credit for Prior Learning Work Group to:

- **Increase** the number of students who receive academic credit for prior learning and the number and type of academic credits accepted for prior learning.
- **Develop transparent policies and practices** in awarding PLA credit and improve prior learning assessment practices.
- **Create tools** to develop faculty and staff knowledge and expertise in awarding credit for prior learning.
- **Develop articulation agreements.**
- **Develop outcome measures** to track progress on the goals outlined in this section.

2012-13 Workgroup Membership

9	Postsecondary education boards and councils
26	SBCTC (including 7 faculty)
9	Baccalaureate institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 7 public▪ 1 private non-profit▪ 1 WGU Washington
3	Career Colleges
7	House of Representatives, Senate, other state agencies
2	Public safety
1	Student
1	Military/Department of Defense
12	Workforce and apprenticeship sectors

Progress on Legislative Goals

- **Identified** single contacts for all campuses.
- **Developed faculty handbook** for PLA implementation that includes sample policies developed by workgroup – definitions, PLA assessment methods, fee structure, coding, tracking, and transcription.
- **Established** crosswalk examples for specific career clusters.
- **Created** new crosswalks between industry certifications and college credentials, including military training.
- **Collected and shared** state and national best practices.
- **Developed** resources and training for faculty and staff.

Progress on Legislative Goals Continued

- **Increased transparency and consistency** of information available to students and stakeholders. **Improved** college, university, and agency websites to provide better information about PLA practices.
- **Discussed** PLA practices with regional accrediting commission.
- **Convened** 3 statewide PLA Conferences – average attendance 120
- **Collected** data on credits awarded and students served
- **Submitted** reports to Legislature.
- **Elected** co-chairs from Workgroup membership.

Crosswalk – Comparing Outcomes

<http://wa-priorlearningassessment.wikispaces.com/Crosswalks>

Non-accredited learning outcomes

Credit bearing course outcomes

Highline Community College

Military Policy Training



Administration of justice courses

Washington Community and Technical College System

Child Development Associate Certificate



Early learning courses

Highline Community College

NASBITE Certification



International business courses

Highline Community College

WA Basic Law Enforcement Academy Training



Administration of justice courses

Communicating Information

wiki

webpages

listserv

system groups

workshops

recorded sessions

PLA
handbook

2012-13 PLA Data

Summer 2012-Spring 2013 Data Summary:

- **4,595** - Number of students receiving PLA credit.
- **84,778** - Number of academic PLA credits.



Moving Forward

2014 and Beyond

- Focus on military prior learning.
- Work with NWCCU to clarify definitions of PLA.
- Expand and improve communication about PLA.
- Encourage additional crosswalk development between industry and colleges.
- Align PLA with competency-based efforts.
- Develop an assessment bank.
- Encourage increased use of CLEP examinations.
- Improve data collection.

