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# Credit for Prior Learning

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is a process for assessing learning gained outside of a traditional academic environment. PLA is a means of evaluating what a student already knows at the college-level derived from these experiences by providing supporting documentation, submission of materials. This could be learning acquired through:

- military service
- employer training programs
- independent study
- non-credit courses
- open course work
- community service

## Alternative Pathways for Prior Learning Assessment

### Credit by Examination

- Exams at CSU
  - [CLEP](#) (*register to take a free CLEP Exam*)
  - [DSST](#) (*formerly DANTES*)
- Transfer Credit
  - [DANTES Testing Transfer Credit](#)
  - [Advanced Placement Transfer Credit](#)
  - [International Baccalaureate Transfer Credit](#)

### Credit for Military Learning

- [Joint Services Transcript Request](#)
- [Military Transfer Credit Agreement Form](#)
- [Military Transfer Certification](#)
- [Work Experience](#)
- [Articulation Agreements](#)

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## Prior Learning Assessment Guidelines and Criteria

### Student Eligibility

1. Meet all Columbus State University admission requirements
2. PLA credit must be relative to specific course objectives
3. Students should not have previously taken or attempted the course that is the same as the PLA credit for which they are applying

**Note:** Credit earned by Advanced Placement (AP) exams does not count toward the residency requirement.

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### Benefits for the Student

- Save money
  - Earn your degree faster
  - Reduce repetition
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## Resources

- [CSU Credit for Prior Learning Policy](#)
- [CSU Equivalencies for ACE Credit](#)
- [Transfer Equivalencies Form](#) to see which college credits earned at a prior institution will transfer
- [Georgia's College Transfer Credit Tool](#)
- [eCampus - University System of Georgia Credit for Prior Learning](#)
- [American Council on Education Military Guide](#)
- [Joint Services Transcript Request Form](#)