

NATIONAL PARK COLLEGE

Prior Learning Assessment Policy and Procedures

Purpose of Policy

To recognize college-level learning students acquire outside of formal higher education, National Park College relies on the following policy and procedures to ensure practices consistent with academic integrity and responsive to nontraditional learners. Such learning may be derived from various life and work experiences, and the term “prior learning assessment” refers to all of the processes the college uses to review and evaluate evidence of learning and to award academic credit as indicated by academic and administrative standards. Adherence to this policy is also intended to support transparent transfer of prior learning assessment credit among institutions of higher education.

Policy and Procedures

National Park College may award college credit for prior learning using the policy and procedures stated herein.

Eligibility

Students who are currently enrolled in classes and/or are in good standing at NPC are eligible to seek credit for prior learning.

Number of Credits

The residency requirement for graduation is 18 hours for each degree earned, and this requirement cannot be satisfied with PLA credits. A student may receive credit for prior learning as long as the residency requirement is satisfied.

Validation Methods

Prior learning credit may be awarded for current courses offered at NPC, and the following methods may be considered for credit evaluation:

1. Credit recommendations listed in the American Council on Education (ACE) National Guide regarding military coursework or workforce training.
2. Credit demonstrated by successfully passing national for-credit examination programs, such as Advanced Placement (AP), College Board College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANTES Standardized Subject Test (DSST), and International Baccalaureate (IB). See the corresponding tables below for minimum score requirements.
3. Individual portfolios using Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) guidelines and/or portfolio submissions evaluated by LearningCounts.org, the online prior learning assessment service provided by CAEL. Students may produce a portfolio including a narrative and supporting documentation in order to explain learning through life and work experiences.

4. Institutional credit and examinations. PLEASE NOTE: Institutional validation procedures should be objective to the extent that external evaluators would reach the same conclusion given the material reviewed, consistent with CAEL guidelines.

Application

Credits for prior learning will be applied to the student's NPC transcript, and the method used will be noted. A grade of CR will be applied and will not be calculated in the student's grade point average (GPA).

Transferability

NPC cannot guarantee transfer of credit for prior learning to other institutions. It is the decision of the receiving institution to accept such credit in transfer, and students are advised to check on the transferability of credit prior to applying for credit.

Fees. National Park College charges a fee for a portfolio assessment to earn credit through PLA. The fee is \$125 for the first 12 credits reviewed (it is not a per-credit fee—it covers up to 12 credits), and then \$25 for each additional 6 credits reviewed. This fee is not dependent on the results of the assessment.

Students choosing to earn credit demonstrated by successfully passing national for-credit examination programs, such as Advanced Placement (AP), College Board College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANTES Standardized Subject Test (DSST), and International Baccalaureate (IB), are subject to the corresponding fee structure.

Since Portfolio Assessment credit does not receive a letter grade (A, B, C, D), it is not usually eligible for financial aid.

Portfolio Preparation Support. Students who wish to earn credit through Portfolio Assessment should visit with the Director of Career Services to learn how to assemble and present their work. Interested students should visit with the Career Center prior to paying the assessment fee to learn expectations and work involved with earning credits through PLA.

Tracking. The College's Registrar will be responsible for tracking the number of students who earn credits through PLA and the resulting credits awarded in each category. A master list of PLA awardees, number of participates in the PLA process, retention and degree completion as they progress through the programs, and—if possible—job placement will be made available to the College on an annual basis.

Review. The College reviews and updates all of its college policies annually to reflect student concerns, federal and state compliance changes and to ensure the policy is still relevant. As such, the PLA policy will be reviewed each year and updated to reflect the current climate of the institution.

Score Charts for Credit by Examination

Advanced Placement (AP)			
Exam Title	Minimum Score Required	Number of Credit Hours Awarded	NPC Equivalent Course
Art, Studio: 2D	3	3	ART 1103
Art, Studio: Drawing	3	3	ART 1113
Art History	4	3	ART 2213
	5	6	ART 2213 & ART 2223
Biology	3	4	BIOL 1114
Calculus AB	3	4	MATH 2214
Calculus BC	3	8	MATH 2214 & MATH 2224
Chemistry	3	4	CHEM 1204
	4	8	CHEM 1204 & CHEM 2204
Computer Science A	3	3	CIS 1023
English Language & Composition	3	3	ENG 1113
	4	6	ENG 1113 & ENG 1123
English Literature & Composition	3	3	ENG 1113 OR ENG 1123
	4	6	ENG 1113 & ENG 1123
Environmental Science	3	4	BIOL 1104
European/World History	3	3	HIST 2253 OR HIST 2263
	4	6	HIST 2253 & HIST 2263
French Language & Culture	3	3	FREN 1103
	4	6	FREN 1103 & FREN 1113
Macroeconomics	3	3	ECON 2203
Microeconomics	3	3	ECON 2213
Music Aural (Listening & Literature)	3	3	MUS 1213
Music Theory	3	3	MUS 1113
Music Theory	4	6	MUS 1113 & MUS 1123
Physics B	4	4	PHYS 1204
Physics 1	4	4	PHYS 1204
Physics 2	4	4	PHYS 2204
Physics C: Mechanics	4	4	PHYS 2114
Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism	4	4	PHYS 2124
Psychology	3	3	PSYC 1103

Spanish Language & Culture	3	3	SPAN 1103
	4	6	SPAN 1103 & SPAN 1113
	5	9	SPAN 1103 & SPAN 1113 & SPAN 2113
Statistics	3	3	MATH 1293
US Government & Politics	3	3	POLS 1113
US History	3	3	HIST 2223 OR HIST 2233
	4	6	HIST 2223 & HIST 2233

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)			
Exam Title	Minimum Score Required	Number of Credit Hours Awarded	NPC Equivalent Course
American Government	50	3	POLS 1113
American Literature	50	3	ENG 2223
Biology	50	4	BIOL 1114
Calculus	50	4	MATH 2214
Chemistry	50	4	CHEM 1204
College Algebra	50	3	MATH 1123
College Composition	50	6	ENG 1113 & ENG 11123
Financial Accounting	50	3	ACT 1103
French Language Level 1	50	6	FREN 1103 & FREN 1113
History of the United States 1: Early Colonization to 1877	50	3	HIST 2223
History of the United States 2: 1865 to Present	50	3	HIST 2233
Human Growth & Development	50	3	PSYC 2013
Information Systems & Computer Applications	50	3	CIS 1023
Introductory Business Law	50	3	BUS 2203
Introductory Psychology	50	3	PSYC 1103
Introductory Sociology	50	3	SOC 1103
Principles of Macroeconomics	50	3	ECON 2203
Principles of Microeconomics	50	3	ECON 2213
Spanish Language Level 1	50	6	SPAN 1103 & SPAN 1113
Western Civilization 1: Ancient Near East to 1648	50	3	HIST 2253

Western Civilization 2: 1648 to Present	50	3	HIST 2263
--	----	---	-----------

DANTES Standardized Subject Test (DSST)			
Exam Title	Minimum Score Required	Number of Credit Hours Awarded	NPC Equivalent Course
Computer & Information Technology	400	3	CIS 1023
Criminal Justice	400	3	CRJ 1103
Fundamentals of College Algebra	400	3	MATH 1123
General Anthropology	400	3	ANTH 1113
Health & Human Development	400	3	ALH 1113
Introduction to Business	400	3	BUS 1113
Lifespan Developmental Psychology	400	3	PSYC 2013
Principles of Statistics	400	3	MATH 1293

International Baccalaureate (IB) Program			
Exam Title	Minimum Score Required	Number of Credit Hours Awarded	NPC Equivalent Course
Visual Arts	4 SL	3	ART 1113
	4 HL	6	ART 1103 & ART 1113
Biology	4 SL/HL	4	BIOL 1114
Business & Management	4 SL	3	BUS 1113
Chemistry	4 HL	4	CHEM 1204
	5 HL	8	CHEM 1204 & CHEM 2204
Computer Science	4 SL	6	CIS 1593 & CIS 1603
	4 HL	9	CIS 1593, CIS 1603, & CIS 2093
Economics	4 SL	3	ECON 2203
	4 HL	6	ECON 2203 & ECON 2213
Extended Essay	C	3	ENG 1113
	A	6	ENG 1113 & ENG 1123
French Ab Initio	4 SL	3	FREN 1103
	5 SL/4 HL	6	FREN 1103 & FREN 1113
History (Americas concentration)	4 HL	3	HIST 2223 OR HIST 2233

History (Europe concentration)	4 HL	3	HIST 2253 OR HIST 2263
Language A: Literature	4 SL	3	ENG 1113 OR ENG 2273
	4 HL	6	ENG 1113 & ENG 1123 OR ENG 1183 & ENG 2273 OR ENG 1183 & ENG 2283
Mathematical Studies	4 SL	3	MATH 1123
Mathematics	4 SL/HL	4	MATH 2214
Further Mathematics	4 SL	4	MATH 2214
Music	4 SL	3	MUS 1113
	4 HL	6	MUS 1113 & MUS 1123
Philosophy	4 SL	3	PHIL 1123
	4 HL	6	PHIL 1123 & PHIL 1603
Theory of Knowledge	4 SL	3	PHIL 1603
Physics	4 SL	4	PHYS 1204
	4 HL	8	PHYS 1204 & PHYS 2204
Psychology	4 SL/HL	3	PSYC 1103
Spanish Ab Initio	4 SL	3	SPAN 1103
	5 SL/4 HL	6	SPAN 1103 & SPAN 1113
	5 HL	9	SPAN 1103, SPAN 1113, & SPAN 2113
Spanish B	4 HL/SL	3	SPAN 2113
Theatre Arts	4 SL/HL	3	TART 1153