

Awarding Credit for Prior Learning

Barton Community College

Credit for Prior Learning is a comprehensive term used to describe credit awarded for learning gained outside a traditional postsecondary academic environment. “Prior Learning Assessment” (PLA) is also used to describe CPL. CPL involves the evaluation and assessment of an individual’s learning obtained through activities such as working, participating in employer training programs, serving in the military, studying independently, completing advanced secondary level coursework, studying open source coursework, volunteering or doing community service. CPL may take the form of postsecondary credit, certification, or advanced standing toward further education or training. Postsecondary level credit is the optimal outcome.

- **Credit by Examination** - The intent of credit by examination is to offer a method for students to demonstrate previously mastered competencies and to assist students in completion of the educational goals. Credit earned will be placed on the student's academic transcript at Barton. A student must request official CLEP and AP score reports and submit to the Enrollment Services Office.
 - As of July 1, 2017 and in accordance with Kansas Board of Regents institutions, Barton will award credit for the equivalent Barton course(s), for all CLEP exam scores at or above the American Council of Education's (ACE) credit-granting recommended score of fifty (50).
- **Industry/Workplace Credit** - Credit from seminars and certificates of completion will be evaluated only upon student request and only if the student is a degree-seeking student and majoring in the field to which the credit pertains. Students submit the certificates and/or documentation to the appropriate Program Director for review. This can include certifications and professional licensure.

- **Apprenticeship** – A combination of on the-job training and related technical instruction in which workers learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation. Apprenticeship programs may be sponsored by individual employers, joint employer and labor groups, and/or employer associations.
- **Portfolio Review** - Postsecondary credit is awarded as a result of review of a portfolio prepared by the student to demonstrate learning acquired outside of the classroom and that is relevant to the student's educational program. A portfolio may include documentation such as certificates of training, work samples, awards and honors, job descriptions, performance evaluations, samples of work product, evidence of self-directed learning, and resumes to validate equivalent learning outcomes are met. A portfolio course may be offered by the institution to assist the student in preparing a quality portfolio.

- **Career Pathway** - Organized groupings of rigorous academic and career related secondary courses taught by secondary faculty, leading from education to employment, that identify each step, skill, educational requirement and aptitude needed to be successful within a specific career. Post-secondary credit is awarded based on faculty evaluation (at post-secondary level) of the secondary course or group of courses whose outcomes are considered equivalent to those of a post-secondary level course. (The process usually results in articulation agreements between a secondary and a post-secondary institution.
- **Foreign College Credit** – Students requesting foreign credit are required to submit an official course-by-course evaluation of the credit. Barton recommends using www.wes.org for the evaluation. Credit is awarded for lower division courses that are equivalent to a Barton course only.

- **Credit for Military Training** - Students in the military can request to have their military experiences and training evaluated by providing the school a Joint Service Transcript (JST). Students can request to have JST forwarded to Barton for evaluation. Please note, before an evaluation can be completed, the student must have passed at least one course with Barton. Students can also bring any applicable certificates that they would like to be evaluated for college credit that are not listed on their JST or ERB. Soldiers can request to have their military evaluation re-evaluated once every six months.
- **Credit for Military Alignment** – Collaborative on Military Credit has been working to evaluate and award credit for military training.

CPL Requirements:

- CPL credit must be equivalent to Barton Community College courses and apply to the degree sought.
- Courses recorded as CPL credit do not count towards the required Barton residency 15 hours.
- CPL credit is recorded as a grade of “P” for Pass credit and will not count in the grade point calculations.
- CPL credit cannot be used to meet the enrollment requirement for federally funded financial aid programs.