



Academic Credit for Prior Learning

Work Group Updates

December 8, 2020



Welcome and introductions

- Acknowledgements
- WSAC's role
- Video chat participation



Objectives for today

- Review the ACPL work group charge and recent work
- Share WA ACPL data 2019-2020
- Share recent national ACPL research and recommendations
- Discuss 2021 opportunities



Definitions

Prior learning is the knowledge and skills gained through:

- Work and life experience.
- Military training and experience.
- Formal and informal education and training.

Assessments are used to determine if the prior learning is at college level:

Category	Examples
Credits by testing	CLEP, DSST
Extra-institutional learning	ACE recommendations, industry certifications, crosswalks
Course challenges	Written, oral or demonstration
Prior Experiential learning (PEL)	Portfolio



RCW 28B.77.230 Goals

(1) The council, the state board for community and technical colleges, the council of presidents, the four-year institutions of higher education, the private independent higher education institutions, and the private career schools shall collaborate to carry out the following goals:

- (a) **Increase the number of students who receive academic credit for prior learning** and the number of students who receive credit for prior learning that counts towards their major or towards earning their degree, certificate, or credential, while ensuring that credit is awarded only for high quality, course-level competencies;
- (b) **Increase the number and type of academic credits accepted** for prior learning in institutions of higher education, while ensuring that credit is awarded only for high quality, course-level competencies;
- (c) **Develop transparent policies and practices in** awarding academic credit for prior learning;
- (d) **Improve prior learning assessment practices** across the institutions of higher education;
- (e) **Create tools to develop faculty and staff knowledge and expertise** in awarding credit for prior learning and to share exemplary policies and practices among institutions of higher education;
- (f) **Develop articulation agreements when patterns of credit for prior learning are identified** for particular programs and pathways; and
- (g) **Develop outcome measures** to track progress on the goals outlined in this section.



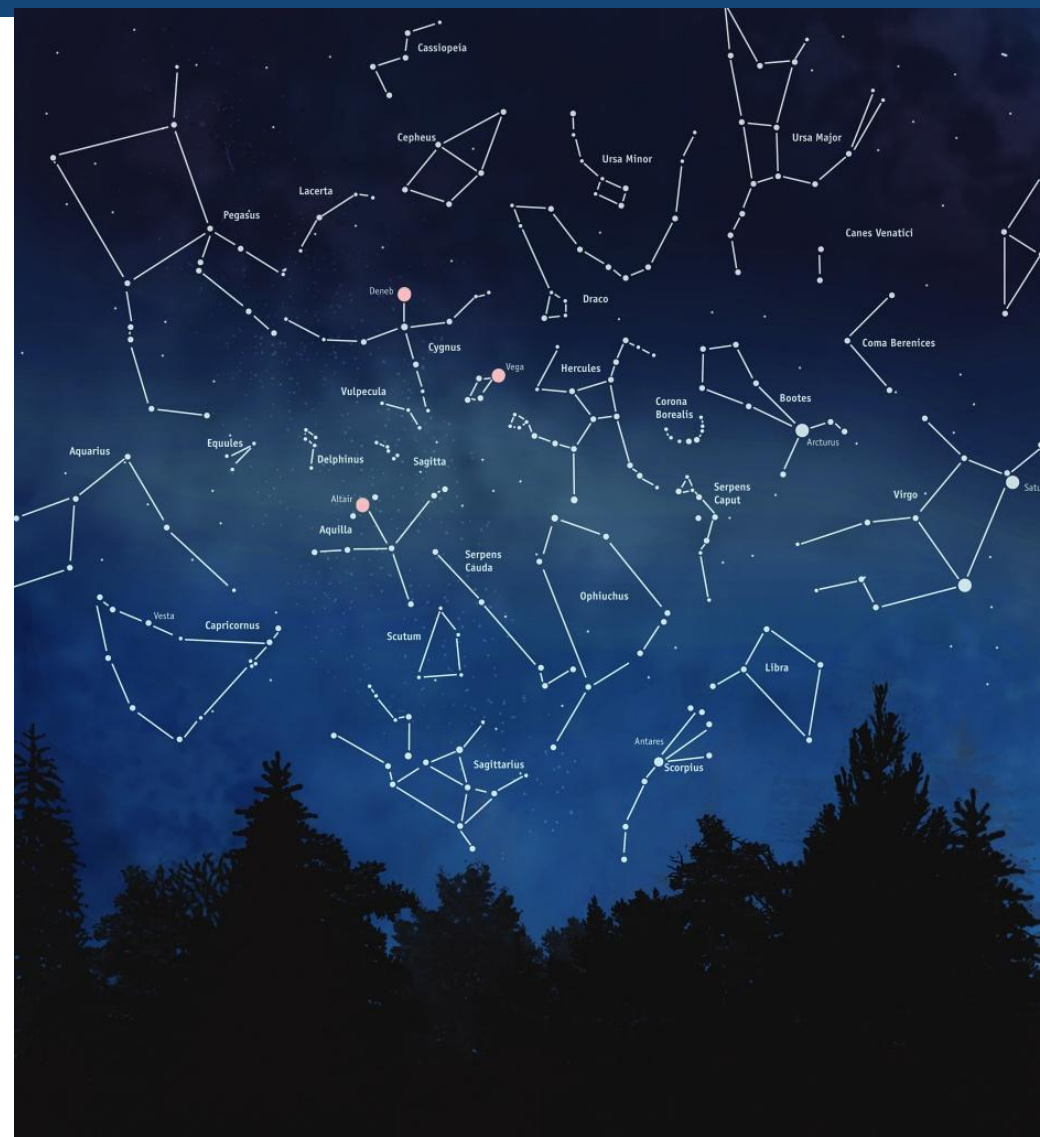
ACPL Work Group in context...

ACPL exists within a constellation of policies and rules...

- Institutional
- Sector
- State
- NWCCU

...and within a complex constellation of stakeholders

- Higher education institutions
- Commissions and councils
- COP, SBCTC, ICW, WSAC
- Military, workforce, labor
- Prospective and current students
- And more....





Highlights of recent ACPL Work

- **Data and reports:**
 - Full participation 4 years (50 institutions) and legislative reports
 - Disaggregated data case studies: Highline and Saint Martin's University
- **Web presence:**
 - WSAC webpage on ACPL
 - Prior learning info in College and Career Compass
- **ACPL resources:**
 - Handbook: Sample policies, examples of assessments
 - Workshops and webinars



ACPL Annual Report Overview

- **Current state data**
 - ACPL credits applied toward certificates or degrees
 - Approximate number of students receiving ACPL (some duplication)
 - Data by type of ACPL
 - Data by institution and by sector
- **Analysis of data:**
 - **In 2020, 4 years of all institutions reporting** (Public CTCs/Baccalaureates and Private Non-Profit Baccalaureates)
 - Report includes ACPL by sector, by type



Statewide ACPL Preliminary Data

Year	Number of students	Number of Credits
2019-2020	2,174	35,782
2018-2019	4,099	53,995
2017-2018	3,005	58,000
2016-2017	3,217	61,340



Statewide ACPL Preliminary Data

Sector type	Number of Credits 2016-2017	Number of Credits 2017-2018	Number of Credits 2018-2019	Number of Credits 2019-2020
Community and Technical Colleges	33,486	35,054	36,708	10,514
Private Baccalaureates	3,229	2,024	3,387	2,655
Public Baccalaureates	24,625	20,922	13,900	22,613



Understanding who receives ACPL

Disaggregated Data Project

- Description
- Why is this important?
- Process
- Initial Observations
- Next steps and feedback



Increasing awareness: Prospective students

Washington mobile-first tool for adult learners

- Outreach and marketing to adult learners
- “Campus agnostic” key guidance on credit for prior learning
- **Opportunity to share ACPL services at each college**
 - www.Compass.wa.gov
 - <https://compass.wsac.wa.gov/article/credit-for-prior-learning>



COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

Navigate the steps to submit an application and transfer credits from previous institutions.

From your interests

Credit for Prior Learning

Many colleges have a process to earn academic credits for prior learning from work or life. Credit for prior learning...

unread

More articles

Applying to College

If you've picked an educational program, it's time to apply! Your application process and deadlines can vary, depending...



Resources

Handbook revision

Discussion:

- On a state level, what information is most useful to you?
- When you need ACPL information, what's the best way for you to get it?
- What is your interest level in ACPL learning opportunities?
 - Webinar training? (topics?)
 - Quarterly Learning Community / Community of Practice?
 - Other ideas?



Recent Research

WICHE and CAEL 2020:

Recognizing Prior Learning in the COVID-19 era

Initiative on Recognizing Learning

- Landscape analysis: issues in practice, policies and research needs
- Research on academic outcomes: 25k Students, >25 years, 72 institutions
- Briefs, reports, toolkits



WICHE/CAEL: Key findings

- Higher degree completion for PLA students
- Impact of PLA for Latinx, Black, Pell recipients, Community College students
- Reduced time to degree for ACPL students
- Increased residential credit learning

...And yet,

- 1 in 10 students earned at least 1 prior learning credit



WICHE and CAEL: Recommendations

- ACPL options available and well-promoted; workforce and college collaborations
- Systems to help students fully understand options
- Adjust financial aid models to cover assessment
- Creative partnerships among colleges to scale PLA for students' and workers' needs



Planning for 2021

- **New federal requirement**

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/34/668.43>

[https://www.nasfaa.org/uploads/documents/2019 State Authorization Federal Regulations.pdf](https://www.nasfaa.org/uploads/documents/2019_State_Authorization_Federal_Regulations.pdf)

-Federal law requires schools to 'disclose any written criteria used to evaluate and award credit for prior learning experience. Includes but not limited to: service in the armed forces, paid or unpaid employment, or other demonstrated competency or learning



Summary 2021

ACPL information and research

1. Annual legislative report
2. Disaggregated data
3. Surveying policy, process, prices

Training and resources

- Handbook
- Other training and resources?



WSAC's ACPL webpages:

<https://www.wsac.wa.gov/assessments-prior-learning>

Ami Magisos

Assistant Director, Policy and Planning

AmiM@wsac.wa.gov

360-753-7823



Next Steps for 2020-2021 Directions

Decisions	Logistics	Leaders / Liaisons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data plan - Legislative Report: - Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the field - For learners - Training/Professional Development - ACPL Work Group 		



Discussion questions

- 1. What data or information would help you examine ACPL success -**
 - in your institution?
 - In our state?

- 2. Is current survey and report meeting our needs? In what ways would you like this survey and report to add value to ACPL work -**
 - In your institution?
 - In our state?

- 3. Specifically, are there changes in current ACPL data collection, analysis and reporting that could help us get the information we would like?**



Discussion and Summary

- What is our top priority this year for changing/improving the ACPL data collection and report? (keeping realistic view of resources, time and capacity)



Small Group Discussion:

- **How does your institution define ACPL success?**
- **What do we think ACPL success statewide looks like?**



Small Group Discussion:

- What elements of ACPL work do you think are most important for the work group this year?

Please brainstorm with attention to these three areas:

- Resource development
- Training
- Communication (with students, among practitioners, etc.)



Prioritization Discussion

- **What are our top priorities for action this year (keeping realism in mind in resources, time and capacity)?**



Awarding Credit

- Outcomes are assessed and found to be equivalent to specific college course outcomes.
- Awarding credit is consistent with the policies of the institution.

Limitations, portability and transparency:

- NWCCU: Prior experiential learning is limited to 25 percent of credits needed for a credential.
- Noted on college transcripts as *PEL*.
- Community and technical colleges ensure transferability of ACPL credits between them.