

# ASHLAND UNIVERSITY

## **Prior Learning Credit**

Prior learning credit is accepted from recognized institutions and organizations based upon standard policies and practices in higher education. At Ashland University, prior learning may be defined as college-level learning achieved outside the traditional college classroom "prior to" any college coursework in that subject area. Prior learning is distinguished from prior experience by the key word "learning." Prior experience, while it is important, will not necessarily be equivalent to prior learning.

Students achieve competencies through workshops, seminars, personal or professional opportunities, and/or independent study. Prior Learning Credit (PLC) is academic credit awarded for college-level learning obtained outside the traditional college classroom which can be verified by either an academic transcript from an accredited undergraduate institution or via equivalencies determined by the American Council of Education.

A maximum of 32 undergraduate semester hours credit may be granted and a processing/recording fee may be charged.

Common forms of PLC accepted by Ashland University:

- Standardized examinations: Advanced Placement (AP); College Level Examination Program (CLEP); Chauncey Group International (DSST Program), formerly DANTES
- Military; American Council on Education (ACE); professional licensures
- Corporate and professional training which demonstrates college-level learning
- Credit by examination – Enrolled students may obtain credit by examination in any required course. Proficiency must be demonstrated prior to the student's last registration before graduation. Approval of Department Chair, Dean and

Instructor must be given using the Credit by Examination Form through the Registrar's Office. No such application will be considered for any course which the student has previously taken or in any course for which a waiver has been previously granted. A grade of "B" or better must be obtained on the test to receive course credit; however, a grade of "S" will be entered on the student's record. A processing/recording fee will be charged. See Fees and Charges brochure for details.

- Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) – a portfolio that includes learning narratives and a petition for credit using a specified format may be submitted by admitted students for review. A faculty member qualified as an Ashland University PLA Assessor will review the portfolio against a Faculty Senate Prior Learning Committee approved rubric and make credit recommendations to the registrar based on qualified learning experiences. A portfolio assessment fee will be added to the student's account and must be paid prior to assessment. The PLA Coordinator assists students through the portfolio submission process. The portfolio content must meet the rigor and relevance of the college course for which credit is sought.

When considering Prior Learning Assessment credit and transfer credit which reflects the same course work or student learning outcomes, credit from regionally accredited institutions shall take priority for transcribed values.