



<b>Awarding Academic Credit by Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)</b>
Policy Number: 5164
Applicable Code/Law: N/A

**Policy:**

The policy of Shoreline Community College District Number Seven (7) is that prior learning is defined as the college-level knowledge and skills gained through work and life experience; through military training and experience; or through formal or informal education, training, and certifications. Prior learning assessment (PLA) is the process used to evaluate previous life experience for academic credit. Prior learning can be demonstrated by compiling a portfolio that demonstrates prior experiential learning (PEL); submitting third-party certifications and/or industry-recognized testing/training to demonstrate extra-institutional learning (EIL), such as military and/or work-based training; taking standardized tests (i.e. credit by testing); and/or taking course challenge examinations. The documentation of learning shall be comprehensive, independently verifiable, authentic, and up-to-date. All assessment processes used to evaluate prior learning will be consistent with effective current assessment methodologies in the respective fields. High academic standards for the awarding of such credit will be applied.

Credit by PLA is awarded only for college-level learning and must be related to the theories, practices, and content of the relevant academic field. Credits must be tied to existing courses with related learning outcomes or to degree requirements. Credit will be awarded when demonstrated learning matches specific course outcomes.

This policy supersedes 5160, 5161, 5162, and 5163.