
Credit for Prior Learning Key Terms & Definitions

Overview

Purpose: This document provides definitions used throughout the CNM Way Credit for Prior Learning Processes.

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL): The awarding of college credit for learning gained from experience outside the traditional classroom.

CPL Coordinator: The Office of Academic Affairs full-time staff member with a Certificate of Mastery in Prior Learning Assessment from Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) responsible for facilitating CPL.

CPL Assessment Methods

American Council on Education (ACE) Credit Recommendation Service (Credit): The Center's [College Credit Recommendation Service \(CREDIT\)](#) connects workplace learning with colleges and universities, helping adults earn academic credit for courses and examinations taken outside traditional channels. And ACE's [Military Guide](#) recommends equivalent college credits for members of the armed forces, except the Air Force, for certain types of military training and service experiences.

- **American Council on Education (ACE) Military Guide:** Provides credit recommendations and detailed summaries for training and occupations offered by each branch of the military.
- **American Council on Education (ACE) National Guide to College Credit for Workforce Training:** Provides college-credit recommendations and detailed summaries for reviewed workforce training, online courses/trainings, examinations, and certifications offered by a variety of providers.

Standardized Exams: Nationally-recognized examinations that assess a student's proficiency in course learning outcomes (i.e., College Board College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST), and Advanced Placement (AP) exams).

Challenge Exam: Exams developed by CNM faculty subject matter experts (SME) for specific CNM courses that assess a student's ability to demonstrate that their prior learning meets the level of learning required for course credit.

Certification and Licensures: Current, verifiable industry-recognized credentials/licensures.

CNM Community Partnerships: Established, state-wide partnerships with employers who provide individuals with college-level, on-the-job training which can be used to earn credit towards a CNM program.

CNM Ingenuity, Inc. (noncredit to credit) is a nonprofit that helps Central New Mexico Community College pursue cooperative ventures in technology and entrepreneurship. Evaluated and approved training and programs, completed through CNM Ingenuity, Inc. are eligible for CPL towards CNM certificate or degree programs.

CPL e-Portfolio: A carefully written document and compilation of work that demonstrates a student's proficiency of the learning outcomes and/or demonstrable skills for a specific CNM course and is evaluated for course credit. Students reflect on their experiences acquired outside of a formal classroom and explain/demonstrate how their experiences(s) meet the requirements of the course learning outcomes. (see CPL e-Portfolio Processes).

CPL Crosswalk: A predetermined college-equivalency between a specific assessment (i.e., industry credential, exam, or evaluated training) and CNM course(s). (See current crosswalks on the CNM CPL website, on exam policies and CPL forms.)

CPL Award: The granting of credit as transfer credit (TR) or Institutional credit (CR) on the student's official transcript based on their ability to provide the specific evidence of learning, as required by a CPL crosswalk or as assessed by a faculty subject matter expert (SME).

Transfer Credit (TR): Credit awarded for learning assessed outside of CNM and determined to be equivalent to a specific CNM course or courses.

Assessment methods of CPL that receive TR: Reviewed and approved ACE credit recommendations (military, workforce, and others), CNM community partnerships, industry credentials, and standardized exam scores.

Assessment methods of CPL that receive CR: Challenge exams with passing score and e-Portfolio submissions that receive a grade of CR from a trained CPL e-Portfolio faculty assessor.

Evidence of Learning: Documentation submitted by a student as proof of meeting the course learning outcomes for a specific CNM Course. Examples of evidence may include, but are not limited to: industry credentials, workplace training certificates of completion or transcripts, formal written communication from community partners/employers verifying student job description/duties/rank, official standardized test scores or challenge exam scores, and student-authored/created professional works.

Faculty Assessor: Full or part-time CNM faculty member with recent, relevant, teaching experience in course(s) for which CPL Portfolio submission is available, and who is trained to assess student CPL e-portfolios according to the CNM (or CAEL) standards for CPL e-portfolio assessment.

Post-e-portfolio assessments: Some departments may require skills-based or other evaluations of student ability *in addition to* the completed e-portfolio to demonstrate necessary subject-knowledge/demonstrable skills (i.e., interview and task evaluation).

Student CPL Eligibility Criteria: Student is active/admitted, has a declared major, and the credit requested will fulfill the student's declared program requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs): Concise measurable statements that identify the knowledge, skills, and abilities students should be able to demonstrate upon completion of a course or through relevant experiential learning.

Joint Services Transcript (JST): An up-to-date, official Armed Services document that presents completed military training, exams, work history of active duty and veteran service members during their service and includes a summary of ACE college-credit recommendations.