Credit for Prior Learning

What is prior learning?

Learning does not only take place in the halls of academia. Adult learners bring to the classroom many years of learning through diverse experiences in life and in the workplace. Some of these experiences may be counted towards college-level work through prior learning credits.

Prior learning is defined as documented college-level learning acquired through previous study or through non-classroom experiences. These experiences may include travel; volunteer work; independent acquisition of knowledge; participation in formal courses sponsored by associations, business, government, industry, the military, and unions; and participation in certification programs and professional development courses. Only documented, college-level learning assessed by faculty will be awarded college credit. Credit is granted for learning from experience, not for experience alone; however, students must complete a minimum of 25 percent of the credits required for their degree in residence at Berkeley College.

How can I earn prior learning credits?

- Challenge examinations
- National standardized tests, such as AP, CLEP, DANTES, Regents College Exams (formerly ACT)
- Military training
- Portfolio evaluation
- Published guides, such as the American Council on Education CREDIT program and the National College Credit Recommendation Service (National CCRS)

For more information, please click here for the Credit for Prior Learning Guide.

The first step is to complete the **Initial Prior Learning Assessment eForm**. Students will receive a Credit for Prior Learning Plan via email and will be contacted to meet with an academic advisor, who will review the possibilities for credit recognition and provide advice on the best method for assessment as well as the procedures to be followed.

Students enrolled in the **Medical Assistant**, **Patient Care Technician**, **Practical Nurse**, **Surgical Processing Technician**, and **Surgical Technology** programs should refer to their respective Student Handbook Supplements for additional information regarding credit for prior learning.