

Earn Academic Credit for What You Have Learned Outside of School

APU recognizes that not all college-level learning takes place at a university. Learning may occur on the job, during corporate training, doing volunteer work, pursuing hobbies, at the public service academies, or in many other situations.

APU is pleased to accept credit recommendations from a variety of sources and offers a portfolio option for students who have not documented their learning through other means.

Listed below are the most common options available at APU for earning credit for non-traditional learning:

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Tests

Students can earn college credit by taking CLEP tests designed to measure college-level learning. For more information, visit: collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) Subject Standardized Tests

Military and eligible civilian students can earn college credit through the testing program administered by DANTES. For more information, visit: dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/examinations/DSST

American Council on Education (ACE) Evaluations

ACE reviews and assesses training, testing and experiential programs and makes college credit recommendations where appropriate. For more information, contact the APU Transfer Credit Department at: CreditAward@apus.edu

PLA Portfolio Program

APU students who feel they have acquired college-level learning that has not been acknowledged through other means may be eligible for the PLA portfolio program.

Eligibility

This program helps students document their learning for evaluation by APU faculty.

Students may petition for credit for a specific APU course. To be eligible for this program, participants must:

- Be an APU undergraduate student
- Have a grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher
- Have completed or received credit for ENGL 101
- Have completed or received a waiver for COLL 100
- Have completed the Transfer Credit Evaluation (TCE) process
- Have not registered for the senior seminar course
- Have not yet applied for graduation

The PLA portfolio program requires a three credit hour, eight week course. During this course, students will be able to analyze their prior experience in terms of learning and prepare appropriate documentation for a well-developed portfolio.

A PLA advisor will provide assistance throughout the process. Students are able to submit their first portfolio at no additional charge beyond the course tuition, giving them the potential to earn six credit hours for the cost of one course. A fee of \$250 will be assessed for each additional portfolio submitted for evaluation.

