

Prior Learning Assessment

The Prior Learning Assessment or PLA program allows students to earn credit for learning that occurs outside the sponsorship of accredited post-secondary education institutions. PLA is not awarded for experience but for college-level learning which entails knowledge, skills, and competencies that students have obtained as a result of their prior learning experiences. PLA credit is awarded through the following methods:

- **Portfolio** - learning through experiences such as reading and study, work, and on-the-job training or special classes.
- **Standardized Testing** - a pre-assigned score must be obtained on nationally accepted tests such as College-Level Examination Program (CLEP); Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support (DANTES) Subject Standardized Test (DSST); Excelsior College Examinations (ECE); Advanced Placement (AP); International Baccalaureate (IB).
- **Published Guide** - learning received from nontraditional sources such as a military or industry classroom. These courses must have been evaluated by a nationally known organization such as the American Council on Education (ACE) and published in the organization's nationally recognized guide.

Military education and training credit can be transcribed through a Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) Transcript; Army, Marine Corp., Navy, or Coast Guard Joint Service Transcript (JST).

ACE service school course descriptions and recommendations are evaluated by TSJC. The evaluation methodology compares the training school course description and ACE credit recommendations with TSJC course descriptions for equivalencies. When a service school course is found to be equivalent, the credit is applied.

A CCAF transcript is evaluated like any transcript received from an accredited college / university. Academic credit will be awarded only for those courses directly applicable to the curriculum requirements of the student's declared degree / certificate program as outlined in the current TSJC college catalog.

PLA credits may be used to fulfill up to 75% of the course-work requirements of a TSJC degree / certificate program.

Students who wish to receive credit for prior learning and plan to transfer those credits to another college or university should verify that those credits will indeed be accepted by the receiving institution. The receiving institution may desire to re-evaluate the awarded credits received through National Standardized Exams. Policies for awarding transfer credit especially those received under a PLA program vary from school to school.

For additional information on college credit opportunities through PLA, please contact the Registrar at 719-846-5550.

More Information

Army, Marine Corp., Navy and Coast Guard service members to include active duty, reserve and veterans **must** now request a Joint Service Transcript or JST vice their previous AARTS or SMARTS

Transcript. If you are a member of one of these services in the above categories, please request your JST.

Air Force service members in the above categories can request an Air Force CCAF Transcript.