

# HOW TO USE PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENTS TO REDUCE TIME TO COMPLETION

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# **INTRODUCTIONS**

# WELCOME

This session will provide an overview to Prior Learning Assessment (PLA), address why it is important, and share development and implementation approaches.

Tools and resources to support the advancement of PLA will be shared.



# PLA OVERVIEW

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is a process that enables learners to demonstrate what they have learned and translate that learning into college credit.

PLA validates knowledge acquired through life experience, work experience, military experience, civic engagement, individual study and reading, and participation in classes or training sponsored by business and industry, professional organizations or government agencies.

Credit is awarded for college-level knowledge gained from experience and not for the experience itself.

# **THE STUDENT PLA VIDEO**

**MOVIE TIME!!**

## PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

**Work**

Turn your “on the job”  
learning into  
college credit!

**Life**

Even your life experiences  
and hobbies have the  
potential to earn you  
college credit!

# WAYS TO AWARD PLA

Evaluation of Military Training

Individualized Student Portfolio

Challenge Exam

Certification Crosswalk

Standardized Exam



# WHY IS PLA IMPORTANT?

PLA is both an Acceleration and Completion strategy.

2010 Council on Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) study of 62,000 students across 48 states found that students who received PLA credit had higher completion rates and lower time to degree than students who did not get PLA credit.

- Adults who were awarded PLA were 2.5 times more likely to persist to completion than those who did not.



# DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING PLA

Questions to consider

Information to collect

Strategies to employ

Collaborations to build

Resources to use





# RESOURCES

HANDOUT REVIEW

# www.collegetransition.org



The cover of "The College Transition Toolkit" features a woman in a white lab coat speaking at a conference. The title "THE COLLEGE TRANSITION TOOLKIT" is at the top in yellow and white. Below it, the writers' names are listed: Sandy Goodman, Deepa Rao, Jessica Spohn, and Cynthia Zafft. The NCTN logo is in the bottom left corner.

A graphic titled "National College Transition Network Mapping Your Financial Journey: Helping Adults Plan for College". It features a woman holding a baby and a young man in a plaid shirt. The background is a mix of teal, orange, and white.

The cover of the "CURRICULUM GUIDE Integrating Career Awareness into the ABE/ESOL Classroom" is yellow. It includes icons for Cultural Content, Career Planning, Self-Explanation, and Occupational Explanation. The authors, Marika Desch &amp; Carol Bower, and the SABES logo are at the bottom.

A screenshot of the website's home page. The navigation bar includes Home, Courses, Course Policies, FAQs, Intro to Online Learning, About Us, and Contact Us. A main banner features a man at a computer with the text "Dedicated facilitators with subject area expertise." Below are sections for "ANNOUNCEMENTS" with a "Sign Up" button for a mailing list, and social media links for Twitter.

A screenshot of the "College for Adults" website. It features a navigation menu, a main heading "COLLEGE for ADULTS", and a "Do you know how to plan for college?" section with a "What's New" sidebar. The footer includes copyright information for 2009 and contact details for the National College Transition Network.

# THANK YOU!

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