

	ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POLICY		Page 1 of Click here to enter text.
	Issued: (original policy date) Click here to enter text.	Revised: (date) Click here to enter text.	

Policy Title: ***Guidelines for Credit for Prior Learning Through Portfolio Assessment***

Policy Status: ☐ New

☒ Revision

☐ Supersedes existing policy titled:

☐ Deletion

Policy Purpose/Reason: The purpose of the Credit for Prior Learning through Portfolio Assessment policy is to formalize the process for evaluation of and assignment of non-traditional prior learning credits for adult learners, to determine the value of the portfolio development workshop and to evaluate the fees and/or tuition assessment of courses accepted through prior learning portfolio assessment.

Effective Date of Policy (Note: Enter a date here only if the effective date is not next July 1): Academic Year

Background: There is a state and national push to support adult learners by helping them identify whether their work experiences have provided them with competencies equivalent to college credit. The current Colorado Mesa University (CMU) guideline limits credit for prior learning assessment (PLA) to a percentage of 25% of the total credit hours towards a degree and/or certificate. CMU further restricts PLA by combining other non-traditional credit within the 25% limitation. CMU's policy on PLA through transfer credit is in violation of the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) policy that stipulates PLA through transfer is not subject to restrictions other than residency requirements. Specifically, the CDHE policy permits up to 90 transfer credits that cannot be achieved under the current CMU PLA credit transfer policy. In addition to alignment of the CMU PLA policy with the State, credit earned for PLA is completed via student development of a portfolio that requires students to enroll in a portfolio development one credit workshop course. Reevaluation of the workshop course requirement is significant as several faculty mentors report the workshop is often waived. Half-tuition assessment is expected of the student for courses that are accepted as equivalents by prior learning once portfolio assessment is approved. Comparison with peer institutions found that CMU's cost for acceptance of course equivalencies for PLA was higher. Most peer institutions assessed a flat fee for course equivalencies accepted for prior learning. Reevaluation of the half-tuition course assessment is intended to bring CMU's PLA policy in alignment with peer institutions.

The Academic Policy Committee recommendations to the current Credit for PLA Through Portfolio Assessment policy are summarized below.

1. The following statement will replace the current language in the catalog policy: *"The total combination of non-traditional credit is limited by academic residency requirements for the degree"*. CMU has the capacity to accept up to 90 credits once approved by the portfolio assessment in compliance with the CDHE.

2. In addition to the above language, we will add the following words: *"In the case of*

transfer, academic departments at CMU shall determine if the PLA credit awarded by the sending institution can apply to the student's major requirements."

3. The Portfolio Workshop will be a "*strongly recommended*" course. In some cases, the Portfolio Workshop course could be required at the recommendation of the faculty mentor or Department Head. The flexibility in the policy permits waiving a portfolio workshop course in the event the PLA is for a smaller number of credits or a smaller credit course. For example, for a one credit course it would be burdensome to the student to take a one credit portfolio development workshop course. The alternative of requiring a student take the Portfolio Workshop would be based on the Department Head or faculty mentor recommendation in order to increase the likelihood of a student's portfolio assessment. This may be in the case of students who have multiple course requests for PLA.

4. An application fee of \$50 will be assessed of the student for consideration of PLA. In lieu of half-tuition for credits approved, each course, no matter the number of credits, will be assessed a flat fee of \$100. This is in alignment with peer institutions surveyed by members of the APC.

Definitions: N/A

Full Policy Statement: See attached

Exclusions or Special Circumstances: PLA is limited by academic residency requirements and portfolio acceptance within the specific discipline. Additional guidelines may supersede department requirements if the degree is governed by accreditation standards.

Policy Summary for Catalog: Click here to enter text.

Related Documents:

Policies: Click here to enter text.

Forms: Click here to enter text.

Other: Click here to enter text.

Approved by (signatures as applicable):

Faculty Senate Committee. Bridget Marshall APC representative /date_7/3/2020_____

Faculty Senate David Collins FS President representative/date 9/4/2020

Vice President for Academic Affairs [Signature] /date 9/28/20

President [Signature] /date 10-4-20

Board of Trustees (if applicable) _____ /date _____

Expiration Date (if applicable): Click here to enter text.