FORT LEWIS COLLEGE
DURANGO, COLORADO

Credit for Prior Learning

Academic Affairs

Academic/Prior Learning Credit Policies

Policy Owner: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Effective date: Immediate
Approval date: November 18, 2026
Schedule for Review: Fall 2031

Policy Summary:

Credit for Prior Learning Prior learning is defined as academic knowledge gained through work experience, military service, community involvement, or independent study.

Policy Statement:

Fort Lewis College allows demonstration of prior learning for military service and independent study, as well as demonstrated college-level equivalencies gained through work experiences outside of the college classroom including experience that may lead to an industry credential, technical certificate, or industry license. Learning through independent study can be demonstrated through credit by examination. Learning through military service can be demonstrated by submitting a written request for an evaluation of credits for military service to the Registrar's Office. The DD 214 form, military transcript, and the credit recommendation from the American Council on Education must be attached to the request. Learning through work experiences outside of the college classroom can be demonstrated by using multiple methods of assessment that may include standardized/national exams, locally developed challenge exams, portfolio review, skill demonstrations, and other individualized assessments. If the student earns the equivalent of a C- or better on an institutionally-devised challenge exam, the college will transcript the credits as earned institutional credit with the name and number of the course, the number of institutional credits, the GT Pathways category (if applicable), and note that it was a challenge exam.

In compliance with CCHE Policy I-X, the College provides the following guidelines for Credit for Prior Learning:

Any prior learning credit transferred from a Colorado institution must be awarded credit, including credit for GTPathways courses, STAA (Degree with Designation), and other statewide transfer credits. These credits should not be reevaluated by Academic Departments, as proof of evidence in credit is provided in the transcript, not in secondary exam or portfolio evaluation. In addition, challenge credit from other Colorado institutions must also be accepted via transcript. Lastly, documentation requirements need to be clearly communicated to students. Any missing documentation must also be clarified to the student, and multiple reviews of student documentation are allowable under the provisions of the policy. Institution will only accept credit for prior learning by portfolio reviews for work that conducted in the past 10 years.

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE
DURANGO, COLORADO

Responsibilities:

For oversight of the policy: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

For procedures for implementing policy: (Optional) may also reference where procedures could be found.

For enforcement of the policy: Registrar's Office