

Six Ways to Earn College Credit for Prior Learning

Standardized Exam

Discover how the nationally recognized standardized tests [e.g., Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), Dantes Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) and Cambridge International Exam (CIE)], may earn you credits.

**Cost: Student will pay \$87 per exam to CLEP or DSST. Additional test center fees may apply when taking the exam.*

Challenge Exam

Demonstrate that you meet the competencies of a course by taking a Challenge/Proficiency Exam developed by PCC faculty.

**Cost: \$80 per exam plus \$25 administrative fee*

Portfolio Assessment

You may submit a PLA portfolio for knowledge gained through work, volunteer, military, corporate training and self-directed learning projects. To receive credit, students must submit an online portfolio that demonstrates college-level mastery of PCC course competencies.

**Cost: \$125 per course plus \$25 administrative fee*

Industry Certification

You may earn college credit for professional certifications and industry credentials.

**Cost: No charge to have professional training, licenses and transcripts reviewed*

Training

You may be eligible to receive college credit for ACE-approved military or corporate trainings.

**Cost: No charge to have professional training, licenses and transcripts reviewed*

Noncredit to Credit

You may receive college credit for PCC noncredit and clock-hour courses and trainings that demonstrate the same competencies, academic rigor and learning outcomes of a specific PCC credit course.

**Cost: \$25 administrative fee*

Learn more now

➔ More about Pima Community College: pima.edu

➔ PCC on social media: pima.edu/social

Learn more about how PLA can save you time and money. Visit a campus Student Services Center to meet with an academic advisor.

EARN CREDIT for what you ALREADY KNOW

Prior Learning Assessment



This brochure is produced by Pima Community College District, which reserves the right to make changes.

Accreditation: Pima Community College District (4905 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85709, 520-206-4500, www.pima.edu) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602-2504, 800-621-7440, hlcommission.org). Certain programs are also accredited or certified by specialized agencies recognized by the Arizona Department of Education and/or the U.S. Department of Education.

Pima Community College is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and educational institution committed to excellence through diversity. Upon request, reasonable accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities. Every effort will be made to provide reasonable accommodations in a timely manner. For public and employee accommodation requests, as well as information related to the ADA complaint process, contact the College ADA Coordinator at 520-206-4539 or 4905C E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85709-1130. For PCC student accommodation requests, please contact Access and Disability Resources, 520-206-6688 or adrhelp@pima.edu.

The PCC-Department of Public Safety maintains an Annual Crime Statistics and Clery Crime Act Report for the previous three years. To obtain this report, call (520) 206-2671 or go to www.pima.edu/dps/reports.

Pima County Community College District is governed by an elected five-member board. For information on the Board of Governors, see pima.edu/board. 1801CD3W



PLA Frequently Asked Questions

Q What is PLA?

A PLA is a way to earn credit for college-level knowledge or skills you have attained outside the traditional college classroom and have not been previously evaluated for or awarded college credit. PLA credit is not awarded for experience; it is awarded for college-level knowledge gained from experience.

Q Who should consider PLA?

A Consider PLA if you have extensive work, volunteer or military experience, have current certifications, licenses or industry credentials or have completed professional training programs.

Q What are the eligibility requirements for PLA?

A PLA credit may be awarded if the following requirements have been met:

- Applied for admission to PCC
- Declared a program of study (certificate or degree)
- Completed Prior Learning Assessment Request Form with a PCC academic advisor
- Received evaluation that knowledge/skills are college-level

Q Are there courses/program areas where PLA cannot be evaluated?

A Yes. Consult with an academic advisor, who can help you decide if PLA is right for you and which courses you may challenge.

Q What is a PLA portfolio?

A A PLA portfolio is a collection of materials that documents what you have learned, where you learned it, and how that learning equates to college-level learning. Parallels are made between stated course outcomes, as shown on course syllabi, and your learning through work, volunteering, and other experiences by way of written narratives. You may submit more than one PLA portfolio for evaluation.

Q Are there any prerequisites for having my PLA portfolio evaluated?

A Yes. Portfolio development requires a great deal of writing, so college-level writing skills are a necessity. You must enroll in UEED 100, a mandatory, noncredit, online course designed to help you identify, describe and document the skills and knowledge you've gained through your prior learning experiences. The enrollment fee for UEED 100 is \$49.

Q Who evaluates PLA portfolios?

A Your PLA portfolio will be evaluated by a PCC faculty member who is a subject matter expert.

Q How long does it take to earn PLA credit?

A The process to earn PLA credit varies depending on the type. A portfolio assessment, depending on your work, may take 4-8 weeks, compared to a challenge exam, which could take 1-2 weeks.



Q If I cannot demonstrate college-level knowledge/skills, will I receive a refund?

A Any credit earned through PLA is not guaranteed. Fees paid for assessment are non-refundable.

Q Can PLA credit be used to satisfy a previously failed course?

A No.

Q If I do not receive PLA credit, can I appeal?

A Yes. You may request an appeal if you have additional information/evidence that demonstrates the assessment recommendation was not made objectively. All appeals will go to the appropriate academic dean or designee for final review and recommendation.

Q Can PLA credit be used to satisfy College in-state residency requirements?

A No.

Q Does PLA credit transfer to other institutions?

A PLA credit may transfer. Students who plan to transfer to another college or university should check with that school to be sure the PLA credit will transfer. Credit will be noted by a designation of PLA on the transcript.

Q Can I use financial aid to pay for PLA credit?

A No. PLA credit hours do not count as hours of enrollment for the purposes of financial aid.

Q Does PLA credit count toward my grade point average (GPA)?

A No.

Prior Learning Assessment for College Credit

Earn credit, certification or advanced standing for prior college-level knowledge gained outside the traditional classroom through Prior Learning Assessment (PLA). **Students who apply for PLA can earn up to 50 percent of the credits required for a program of study.**

Any credit earned through PLA is not guaranteed and fees are non-refundable.

Benefits

- **Save time:** Complete your certificate or degree sooner by earning prior learning credits
- **Save money:** Prior learning credits are evaluated for a fee that is lower than the cost of PCC tuition [\$82 per credit hour].
- **Eliminate courses:** No need to take classes that cover content you already have mastered.