

**SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT NUMBER SEVEN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2017**

TAB 2

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject: Policy 5164 [Assessment and Awarding of Credit by Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)]

Background

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is a mechanism by which students can receive Shoreline credit for college-level learning obtained through previous educational or life experience. PLA is important to the College’s mission because it allows students to come to Shoreline at any point in their own educational journey, receive credit for their existing skills and knowledge, and move forward efficiently in meeting their educational goals.

The purpose of this policy is to revise and replace Shoreline’s existing policies and procedures to bring them into alignment with up-to-date guidelines from both the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) as well as the Northwest Commission for Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), our accrediting agency. The table below provides an overview of each of the four different types of PLA, including the common term used within Washington state, a brief definition, and Shoreline’s existing policy (that will now be superseded by Policy 5164) or Washington State law where applicable.

WA State PLA Terminology	Definition	Existing Policies or Law
Prior Experiential Learning	Knowledge and skills acquired through experience alone, evaluated subjectively by faculty via an evaluation of a compilation of work (i.e. portfolio).	Policy 5162 : Assessment & Awarding of Credit for Prior Learning Assessment, approved 05/01/12
Extra-Institutional Learning	Knowledge and skills acquired outside the institution and objectively verified through third-party certifications or industry-recognized testing/training.	RCW 28b.77.230 increases opportunities for students to receive credit by PLA through crosswalks to third-party verified training and certification (e.g., military training or police academy certification).

Credit by Testing	Commonly-accepted higher education equivalency exams that are documented via a transcript or other official record.	Policy 5163 : International Baccalaureate (IB), approved 07/02/12
		Policy 5160 : Advanced Placement, approved 05/12/69
Course Challenge	Course challenge examinations are sufficiently comprehensive to determine that students have the same knowledge and skills as those students who enroll in, and successfully complete, the course.	Policy 5161 : Credit by Examination, approved 04/26/06

Here is the text of Policy 5164, which will supersede Policy 5160, 5161, 5162, and 5163.

The policy of Shoreline Community College District Number Seven (7) is that prior learning is defined as the college-level knowledge and skills gained through work and life experience; through military training and experience; or through formal or informal education, training, and certifications. Prior learning assessment (PLA) is the process used to evaluate previous life experience for academic credit. Prior learning can be demonstrated by compiling a portfolio that demonstrates prior experiential learning (PEL); submitting third-party certifications and/or industry-recognized testing/training to demonstrate extra-institutional learning (EIL), such as military and/or work-based training; taking standardized tests (i.e. credit by testing); and/or taking course challenge examinations. The documentation of learning shall be comprehensive, independently verifiable, authentic, and up-to-date. All assessment processes used to evaluate prior learning will be consistent with effective current assessment methodologies in the respective fields. High academic standards for the awarding of such credit will be applied.

Credit by PLA is awarded only for college-level learning and must be related to the theories, practices, and content of the relevant academic field. Credits must be tied to existing courses with related learning outcomes or to degree requirements. Credit will be awarded when demonstrated learning matches specific course outcomes.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve Policy 5164 [Assessment and Awarding of Credit by Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)].

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