

Alternative College Course Credit Options

Finding the most efficient path to completion for adult students often requires looking beyond their college transcripts. Work history and other experiences such as military service offer areas where a student has achieved a level of mastery comparable to college coursework. Check with your local college or university to see which options they may accept that fits within a student's degree plan.

Ways adult students can earn college course credit that saves time and money include:

<p><u>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</u></p>	<p>The College Board offers CLEP as a way for adult students to demonstrate mastery through exam in a particular area of study. Exam preparation help is available through Modern States' Freshman Year for Free.</p>
<p><u>National Guide to College Credit for Workforce Training</u></p>	<p>The American Council on Education's (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT) connects workplace learning with higher education by helping adults earn academic credit for formal courses and examinations taken outside the traditional classroom.</p> <p>ACE has reviewed and provided academic credit recommendations for more than 35,000 courses, examinations and certifications offered by employers, federal agencies, professional associations, apprenticeship programs, and online education providers.</p>
<p><u>Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)</u></p>	<p>Some adults have developed deep knowledge in an area through years of workforce participation in fields like accounting or management. With approval from their college or university, the student can demonstrate this body of knowledge through the preparation of a portfolio.</p>
<p><u>Joint Services Transcript (JST)</u></p>	<p>Provided by the military, JSTs translate military training and experience into comparable college courses.</p>
<p><u>Transient Student</u></p>	<p>Students enrolled in a Florida state college or university can request approval to take a course at another state college or university. This is particularly helpful when a student is nearing completion of a degree program but finds their remaining course requirements are not offered at their home institution. They can take the course online from another state college or university and have their course credit transfer into their primary institution.</p>
<p><u>Independent Study</u></p>	<p>Similarly, some colleges offer the option to complete a course requirement through independent study. College/department approval is required.</p>
<p><u>Course substitutions</u></p>	<p>The student can request that a course taken at a prior institution be evaluated to determine if it is equivalent to a course required by the new institution. This helps the student retain as many of their previously earned credit as possible.</p>