



Credit for Prior Learning

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Overview

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) is college credit awarded for validated college-level skills and knowledge gained outside of a college classroom. CPL is not awarded for knowledge and skills already assessed and credit awarded, through formal education at regionally accredited in-state and out-of-state institutions. Credit may be earned by students who satisfactorily pass an authorized assessment, including evaluation of approved external standardized examinations and institutional Credit by Examination (CBE). Students may demonstrate proficiency in a course eligible for CPL and receive college credit through the approved alternative methods for awarding credit listed below:

- Achievement of a satisfactory score on an Advanced Placement (AP) examination
- Achievement of a satisfactory score on a high-level International Baccalaureate (IB) examination
- Achievement of a satisfactory score on the College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT)
- Satisfactory completion of an institutional examination, known as Credit by Examination (CBE), administered by the college faculty in lieu of completion of an active course listed in the current college catalog

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) eligibility requires:

- The student is in good standing, with a G.P.A. of 2.0 or better, in the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD)
- The student is currently enrolled in a college in SMCCCD.
- The student has a current Student Education Plan (SEP) on file at their home campus.
- The course requested for CPL is listed in the current SMCCCD college catalog.
- The student is not currently enrolled in the course requested for CPL.

Credits earned from Prior Learning do not satisfy unit load requirements for enrollment status for programs such as financial aid, athletics, veterans' benefits, or for graduation residency requirements. Credits earned from Prior Learning do not count toward determining the 12 semester hours of credits earned in residence as required for an associate degree.

External Exam Scores must be sent to your SMCCCD College

Depending on your external exam, you may be able to send your official scores in multiple ways:

1. Select Skyline College, College of San Mateo or Canada College from the available institutions (Preferred)
2. Electronically to: transevaluation@smccd.edu
3. OR by Mail

Transcript Evaluation Services

C/O College of San Mateo
1700 W Hillsdale Blvd.
San Mateo, CA 94402

Please Note: Official electronic and mailed transcripts must be sent directly from your institution.

San Mateo County Community College District

The SMCCCD is a three-college district located between San Francisco and San Jose in the Silicon Valley. Our Colleges serve nearly 20,000 students each year and offer the first two years of instruction in a wide variety of degree and transfer programs, as well as vocational-technical programs.

Contact

District Office

3401 CSM Drive

San Mateo, CA 94402 USA

(650) 574-6550

TTY call 711 or visit CA Relay Services

webmaster@smccd.edu

smccd.edu

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