

PRIOR LEARNING POLICY

PURPOSE: This policy allows awarding credits for knowledge acquired from external study or experience which is equivalent to the learning outcomes of traditional college courses.

POLICY:

I. Sources of this validation may include testing, military or other training programs and the prior learning portfolio. Testing for which CCSN awards credit includes (but is not limited to) Advanced Placement Examinations (AP), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), Proficiency Examination Program (PEP), DANTES, challenge examinations and credit for prerequisites not taken. College level learning experiences which cannot be translated into credit by the programs listed above can be evaluated according to the portfolio process.

II. Evaluation of Credits

Credit for prerequisites not taken and for portfolio evaluation is possible at the undergraduate level only, contingent upon department approval. Credit for challenge exams is possible, contingent upon department approval. Credit for prior learning may be awarded for practica (excluding student teaching), contingent upon department approval. Specific course equivalencies, evaluation procedures and credits awarded are determined by academic departments. CCSN generally will follow the guidelines provided in The ACE Guide to Educational Credit by Examination and The ACE Guide to Military and Other Training Programs. A department may, with justification, choose to award credit in a manner different from that recommended in the guides and will publish a current listing of credit equivalencies.

III. Maximum Number of Credits

The maximum number of credits earned in portfolio credit shall not exceed one fourth of the total credits required for a degree or certificate.

The maximum number of credits which can be applied toward a degree from all forms of prior learning, including portfolio credit, shall not exceed one-third of the total number of credits required for graduation.

IV. Graduation Residency Requirements

Credits awarded for any form of prior learning shall not count toward the graduation residency requirement.

V. Recording Prior Learning Credits

A student must be enrolled at CCSN when applying for prior learning credits. The Registrar will transcript credits awarded through this policy after the student has successfully earned 12 credit hours in regular classes at CCSN. All credits passed will be

awarded with a grade of PASS except for certain challenge credits which, at the discretion of the appropriate academic department, will be awarded a letter grade of C or better. Grades of D or F will not be transcribed nor will the credits associated with them. A course cannot be challenged to improve the grade.

VI. Fees for Prior Learning Credits

Fees for credits applied for through prior learning is set by the Nevada Board of Regents.