The ultimate goal of this project is to build on past efforts and create a rigorous, reliable, and flexible framework for recognizing, measuring, and awarding credit for prior learning experiences (CPL) while upholding the quality and value of a PSU degree.

What is CPL?
The HECC Report states that Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) is the granting of college-level credit for prior learning. Per HB 4059, “prior learning” is defined as “the knowledge and skills gained through work and life experience, through military training and experience, and through formal and informal education and training from institutions of higher education in the United States and other nations.”

According to Standard Five of the HECC framework, there are 6 Types of CPL:
- **Portfolio:** Credit granted for the preparation and defense of a collection of evidence by a student to demonstrate and validate college-level credit for learning acquired outside the classroom.
- **Challenge Exams:** Credit granted through the assessment of student learning offered by the institution or credit granted for tests of learning, including DSST/DANTES, CLEP, Excelsior, NYU Foreign Language, etc. May result in credit being awarded, or degree requirements being waived.
- **Military Credit:** Credit granted through evaluation of ACE published credit recommendations for formal instructional programs offered by non-collegiate agencies, both civilian employers and the military.
- **International Baccalaureate:** Credit granted for International Baccalaureate.
- **Advanced Placement Exams:** Credit awarded through the evaluation of Advanced Placement Exam scores.
- **Other Credit for Prior Learning:** Credit granted for other prior learning experience not listed in other areas, such as credit granted for industry certifications for proof of applied knowledge and skills in an industry-identified area.

Rationale
- CPL serves PSU’s mission of providing access to a quality liberal education.
- CPL provides a non-traditional pathway for degree completion that will give PSU a competitive edge in attracting a new and currently underserved student population. In deciding on colleges, non-traditional students rated credit for prior learning as more important than class size or the availability of financial aid. (University of Wisconsin System CPL Review, 2010)
- Credit for prior learning has been shown to improve academic outcomes, graduation rates, and motivation, especially among underserved student populations, as well as saving students and universities considerable time and money. (Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, 2010)
- CPL provides opportunities for those who might otherwise be unable to complete a degree. CPL programs free up classroom space, provide incentives to begin and finish a degree, and give more flexibility and control to the student. (University of Wisconsin System CPL Review, 2010)

Why Now?
- February 2012: Passage of HB 4059
- January 2013: Credit For Prior Learning Advisory Committee appointed by HECC to achieve the goals of HB 4059
- September 2013: CPL Committee identifies eight standards to ensure quality in granting credit for prior learning across the OUS
- October 2013: CPL standards distributed to OUS institutions for review and comment.

With the passage of HB 4059, the Oregon legislature has indicated strong interest in implementing mechanisms for incorporating CPL as an option to a time and cost saving path to college degrees.

In late 2012, the HECC appointed a Credit For Prior Learning Advisory Committee (CPL) to achieve the goals of HB 4059. The committee identified a set of eight standards to ensure that OUS colleges and universities develop and maintain high quality processes for granting prior learning credit.

In October 2013, the standards will be distributed to OUS institutions for review and comment. Our group has been tasked with assisting in that review here at PSU.

CPL at PSU is Not a New Concept
On February 7, 2005 the PSU Faculty Senate:
- Approved creation of a Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Program to be housed within the School of Extended Studies
- Approved the creation of a Credit for Prior Learning Coordinator to administer the program
- Approved development of the 1-credit course “Assessment of Prior Learning”
- Approved development of a CPL Handbook and program website
- Approved training of one faculty assessor in each department accepting CPL

Although these initiatives were approved, they were not implemented in a comprehensive manner.

(PSU Faculty Senate Report, February 7, 2005)
Funded by an award from the Provost’s Challenge 2012, the ReThink #92 cast has been charged with:

- Building a flexible, faculty-led, academically and fiscally sound individualized approach for prior learning assessment (PLA), competency based learning, and concurrent learning assessment (CLA) for Portland State University.
- Working with Faculty Senate on approval of policies related to PLA, competency based learning assessment, and CLA.
- Piloting implementation of the PLA and CLA approach in at least one department in CLAS.
- Providing a framework for clearly defining and assessing campus-wide sustainability learning outcomes.
- Creating a program to allow students to earn an undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability in their field of interest.

In addition, we will be assisting in reviewing HECC standards for CPL.

Who We Are

Administration & Analysis Group:
Shelly Chabon - Project Lead
Assoc. Dean of Humanities, CLAS
Cornelia Coleman – Project Manager/English, CLAS

Policies Group:
Cindy Baccar - Group Lead
Director of Registration & Records, EMSA
Rachel Cunliff - Conflict Resolution/Chair, UCC, CLAS
Rob Gould - Conflict Resolution / Chair, EPC, CLAS
Steve Harmon - Curriculum Coordinator, OAA
Becky Ingersoll - Advising & Career Services / ACS & ARC, EMSA
Joan Jagodnik - Transfer Student Services & Community College Relations, EMSA
Alan MacCormack - University Studies/Chair, ARC, UNST
Liane O’Banion - Learning Center/Chair, SCC, EMSA
Deanna Smith - Assistant Director, Student Financial Aid & Scholarships, EMSA

Evaluation Group:
Peter Collier – Group Lead / Sociology, CLAS
Kathi Ketchison – Institutional Research & Planning, OAA
Beth Lloyd-Pool – Institute for Sustainable Solutions, ISS
Bill Jones – School of Business Administration, SBA

Practices Group:
Annabelle Dolidon - Group Lead / WLL, CLAS
Maude Hines - Co-Lead / English, CLAS
Rowanna Carpenter - University Studies, UNST
Jeanne Davidson – Library, LIBR
Joan Jagodnik - EMSA
Annie Knepler - University Studies, UNST
Yves Labissiere - University Studies, UNST
Tyler Matta - School of Business Administration, SBA

Implementation Group:
Veronica Dujon - Group Lead
Dean of Curriculum Development & Enrollment Mgmt, CLAS
Aleksandar Jokic – Co-lead / Philosophy, CLAS
David Raffo - School of Business Administration, SBA

Pilot Groups

Institute for Sustainable Solutions
Beth Lloyd-Pool - Group Lead, ISS
Jennifer Allen - Director, ISS and Associate Prof., Public Administration, ISS
Thad Miller - Urban Studies & Planning, UPA
Angela Hamilton - Institute for Sustainable Solutions, ISS
Jacob Sherman - Sustainability/University Studies, ISS/UNST
Tyler Matta - School of Business Administration, SBA
Bill Jones - School of Business Administration, SBA
Darrell Brown - School of Business Administration, SBA
Roy Koch - Civil Engineering & Environmental Science, MCECS
Barry Messer - Urban Studies & Planning, CUPA
Joe Maser - Environmental Sciences & Management, CLAS
Sarah Lincoln – English, CLAS
Harrell Fletcher – Art, COTA
Avram Hiller – Philosophy, CLAS

World Languages & Literatures
Annabelle Dolidon - Group Lead / WLL, CLAS

Communications
Jeffrey Robinson -Group Lead/Communications, CLAS

Join A Focus Group!

Have you had experience developing, implementing or evaluating any form of Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) at PSU or another college or university? If so, we would like to invite you to participate in a focus group exploring ideas, concerns, and perceptions of the benefits/costs of CPL. Those participating will be given a small stipend.

Department Chairs Focus Groups:
Friday / Nov 8 / 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Monday / Nov 18 / 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Faculty Focus Groups:
Wednesday/ Nov 13 / 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Friday / Nov 15 / 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

If you would like to participate, please email Cornelia Coleman (colemanc@pdx.edu).