

## Prior Learning Assessments (Section title change)

Clayton State University recognizes that learning can take place in a variety of settings other than the traditional classroom. Within guidelines established by the University, credit may be earned for some classes by examination or experience. These non-traditional sources of credit include nationally recognized standardized tests, certain military training, selected professional certifications, and in some cases, special examinations or portfolio options developed at the University. Information about possible credit by examination or experience is available in the appropriate academic school. (Already in catalog)

Prior learning assessment (PLA) involves the recognition of credit worthy activities which include: (New from PLA Task Force Recommendations – already approved)

- College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

Clayton State University awards credit for several CLEP subject examinations. Some programs may limit CLEP credit. (The University does not accept the CLEP general examination.) CLEP examinations are administered by the Testing Center approximately twice per month. Scheduled times and other information are available in the Center (121 Arbor Hall).

- Foreign Language Achievement Testing Services (FLATS)

Clayton State University accepts the Foreign Language Achievement Testing Services (FLATS) credit from Brigham Young University for 54 other languages not covered by CLEP. See the Testing Center for details. (Already in Catalog)

- Advanced Placement Program of the College Board (AP): In some basic courses, Clayton State accepts an AP grade of 3 for credit. Grades of 4 or 5 are required for some other courses. The current required scores are shown in the table below. Students seeking credit must have their official scores sent directly from AP to the Office of the Registrar. (The University does not accept scores forwarded by high schools.) (Already in catalog)

Advanced Placement Scores  
Accepted by Clayton State University

AP Exam	Score	CSU Course Credit Awarded	CSU Credit Hours Awarded
Art History	3, 4, or 5	ART 2301 or 2302	3
Biology	3, 4, or 5	BIOL 1111/111L and BIOL 1112	7
Biology	4	BIOL 1107/1107L	4
Biology	5	BIOL 1107/1107L And BIOL 1108/1108L	8
Chemistry	3	CHEM 1151/1151L	4
Chemistry	4	CHEM 1211/1211L	4
Chemistry	5	CHEM 1211/1211L and CHEM 1212/121L	8
Physics B	3, 4, or 5	PHYS 1111/1111L and PHYS 1112/1112L	8
Physics C Mechanics	4 or 5	PHYS 2211/2211L	4
Physics C E&M	4 or 5	PHYS 2212/2212L	4
Environmental Science	3, 4, or 5	SCI 1901E	3

English Language & Composition	3, 4, or 5	ENGL 1101	3
English Literature & Composition	3, 4, or 5	ENGL 1101	3

US Government and Politics	3, 4, or 5	POLS 1101	3
US History	3 or 4	HIST 2112	3
US History	5	HIST 2111 and HIST 2112	6
European History	3, 4, or 5	HIST 1111 or HIST 1112	3
World History	3, 4, or 5	HIST 1111 or HIST 1112	3
Macroeconomics	3, 4, or 5	ECON 2105	3
Microeconomics	3, 4, or 5	ECON 2106	3
Calculus AB	3	MATH 1113	3
Calculus AB	4 or 5	MATH 1501	4
Calculus BC	3	MATH 1501	4
Calculus BC	4 or 5	MATH 1501, 2502	8
Statistics	3, 4, or 5	MATH 1231	3
Computer Science AB	3, 4, or 5	CSCI 1301	3
French Language	3	FREN 1001 & FREN 1002	6
French Language	4	FREN 1001, FREN 1002, & FREN 2001	9
French Language	5	FREN 1001, FREN 1002, FREN 2001, & FREN 2002	12
Spanish Language	3	SPAN 1001 & SPAN 1002	6
Spanish Language	4	SPAN 1001, SPAN 1002, & SPAN 2001	9
Spanish Language	5	SPAN 1001, SPAN 1002, SPAN 2001, & SPAN 2002	12
Psychology	3, 4, or 5	PSYC 1101	3

- Armed Forces Training including DANTES (Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support) and USAFI (United States Armed Forces Institute)

As a Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) institution, Clayton State accepts Armed Forces training (including DANTES and USAFI). The University consults the American Council on Education (ACE) Guide and considers its credit recommendations. Clayton State University, however, reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of military training for credit at the University. Students seeking credit for Armed Forces experience and training must supply documentation (including but not necessarily limited to the DD-214) to the Office of the Registrar for evaluation. (Already in Catalog)

- ACE (American Council for Education – credit recommendations for military and corporate education and training) (New from PLA task force recommendations - already approved)
- Portfolios (compiled by the student to demonstrate competency)

(New from PLA task force recommendations – already approved)

- Other Clayton State programs may develop validation examinations and procedures in order to grant credit for competencies learned in non- academic courses. (Already in catalog)
- ~~In certain instances, credit by examination is available through validation of previous registered nursing experience and nursing specialty certification. Additional information can be obtained through the School of Nursing.~~ (Lisa says this point can be deleted)

All credit awarded for prior learning must meet the academic standards and policies of Clayton State University, the University System of Georgia (USG), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). As with all curricula, the development and oversight of all PLA options will be the responsibility of the academic department for the course for which credit is awarded, under the oversight of the corresponding college or school, university faculty committees, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs. (New from PLA task force recommendations – already approved)

- ~~1. Credit by examination or experience may be awarded only in areas that fall within the regular curricular offerings of the University, and any credit awarded must be appropriately related to the student's current educational goals. (Covered in areas above and below)~~
- ~~2.~~
  1. A student must meet all prerequisites for a course before credit by examination or experience can be awarded for that course. (already in catalog)
  2. All PLA's must have outcomes that align with the CSU course for which the student is awarded credit. (New from PLA task force recommendations – already approved)
3. PLA for knowledge gained through learning using alternative methods (experiential or online) will be evaluated for possible credit by examination by the appropriate academic department. Acceptable methods for awarding credit in these cases are using CLEP, ACE, AP, FLATS, USAFI, DANTEs, or challenge exams for existing courses. These must be approved by the academic department for the course being approved and by their college/school. ~~PLA using CLEP, ACE, AP, DANTEs, or challenge exams for existing courses will be approved by the academic department for the course being approved and by their college/school.~~ (Revised since passed in April 2013, needs reapproval. This is the policy that will address MOOCs and their offspring)
4. Transfer PLA courses that do not have a CSU equivalent must have learning outcomes of courses that are widely included within the same major by peer institutions. Such decisions must be approved by the academic department for the course being approved and their college/school. (New from PLA task force recommendations – already approved)
5. PLA credit that is not transfer credit from a college or university (e.g. ACE, Dantes) may be awarded for a course not offered by CSU if the learning outcomes align with the outcomes of courses that are widely included within the same major by peer institutions. Such decisions must be approved by the academic department for the course being approved and their college/school. (New from PLA task force recommendations – already approved)
6. The format and guidelines for new portfolio PLA options proposed by academic departments must be approved by the Academic Policies Committee (APC) and Faculty Senate. Once a PLA format is approved, its application to individual courses will be approved by the academic department and their college/school. (New from PLA task force recommendations – already approved)
7. Nationally recognized, standardized PLA options (e.g. CLEP) and institutionally recognized challenge exams must be utilized before academic departments develop additional individualized assessments such as a portfolio option. Exceptions to this

standard must be approved by the APC and the Faculty Senate. (New from PLA task force recommendations – already approved)

8. Currently, This policy may impact some of the University's degree completion programs. For example, the RN to BSN program requires 23 hours of credit plus additional credit by PLA. The PLA credit does not apply towards residency. External standards require that the residency requirement be the same for all academic programs. The PLA task force recommends that the faculty committees consider whether the current policy should be continued or amended. (already covered)
9. No more than 36 hours of PLA credit can be earned. Clayton State currently does not have a limit on the maximum number of credit hours that can be earned through PLA's. A very small number of CSU students have ever earned more than 30 hours of PLA credit. Some institutions set a maximum of 30 – 36 credit hours of all PLA credit combined while others do not. Some members of the PLA task force believe that our current policy of not setting a limit is consistent with the goals of Complete College Georgia. If the credit meets the other PLA standards of the University, then there is no need to set a limit. Others on the task force believe that we should follow the practices of the Adult Learning Consortium and other institutions that set a limit on PLA's to ensure that a degree represents Clayton State's curriculum. In the absence of clear external guidelines from SACS or the Board of Regents, this is a policy question that will need to be answered by the Clayton State faculty. (New from PLA task force recommendations – not approved)
10. Fees charged for assessment should be based on the services performed in the process and not determined by the amount of credit awarded. The fee for departmental challenge exams should be the same as fees for CLEP exams (currently \$100). The fee for portfolio assessments should be the same as the fee charged by the USG Adult Learning Consortium (currently \$250 for 3 credit hours). Exceptions to these fees must be approved by the Academic Policy Committee and the Faculty Senate. Students should contact the testing center or appropriate departments for associated fees. (New from PLA task force recommendations – not approved)
11. Credit by examination or experience is not awarded for any course for which the student has previously earned credit or for which the student has already completed a higher course in sequence. (For example, a student with credit for MATH 1113 could not earn credit by examination for MATH 1101. The only routine exception to the sequence rule is for required courses in which a C or K or better is required for graduation. In such cases, a student may use credit by examination to override a D in the first course of a sequence.) All other exceptions must be approved by the academic department for which credit will be awarded. (Already in catalog)
12. Although appropriate credit earned by examination or experience may be applied to meet graduation requirements, such credit may not be used to meet the minimum number of hours required "in residence" at Clayton State University. This regulation applies even if the credit by examination or experience is earned at the same time that the student is in residence for other courses. (Already in catalog)
13. Credit by experience must have occurred in a formalized setting that maintains verifiable records. In addition, the experience must be validated as equivalent to college credit by a recognized outside entity

~~or by an institution required validation examination. Clayton State University does not award credit based on generalized life experience. (currently in catalog)~~

6. Credit by examination or experience is recorded on transcripts at Clayton State University by the symbol K. Grades of K do not alter the student's semester, Regents', or Institutional Grade Point Average (GPA). (already in catalog)