Credit for Prior Learning

What is Credit for Prior Learning?

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) is a way for students to earn credit for previously acquired knowledge. CPL is commonly referred to as credit by exam or testing out of classes.

CPL is an alternative education or experience-based learning that is gained outside of a college or university. It can include knowledge acquired from work and life experiences, community and volunteer courses, individual study or reading; civic, community, and volunteer work, and participation in informal courses and trainings sponsored by agencies or businesses.

Frequently Asked Questions (click one)

Will CPL credits transfer to other colleges?

How do I earn CPL?

>   Standardized tests (AP, CLEP, IB)
>   Department exams
>   Industry credentials
>   Published guides
>   Apprenticeship training
>   Portfolio examination
>   Military educational and training credit

Is there a cost involved?

Does CPL meet the residency requirement for graduation?

Will I receive grades for CPL?

When can CPL be awarded?

Will CPL increase my GPA?

Can I appeal a CPL decision?

Will CPL credits transfer to other colleges?

Different colleges apply varying policies on the acceptance of CPL. STLCC cannot guarantee the transferability of prior learning credit that has been awarded.

How do I earn CPL?

Students must meet with an academic advisor or department chair/program coordinator in the same discipline they are seeking CPL to determine which of the following methods are used by the department for a particular course to establish CPL and course exemption. CPL methods include:

- Standardized tests (AP, CLEP, IB)
  - Advanced Placement (AP)
    - Click **HERE** for a list of currently accepted AP tests and scores
  - College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)
    - Click **HERE** for a list of currently accepted CLEP tests and scores
  - International Baccalaureate (IB)
    - Students with IB credit should contact the Assessment Center

- Department exams
  - Students may request to receive credit on the basis of a department exam. Department exams may be written, oral, or performance-based, or some combination thereof.
  - Students should discuss this with the appropriate department chair/program coordinator; the department chair/program coordinator can refuse the student permission to test if they feel the student is not prepared.
  - Click **HERE** for the cost estimate.

- Industry credentials
  - Students interested in receiving credit for this type of prior experience should provide a copy of a certificate of completed training, a lesson plan or training content (if available), dates of attendance, proficiency exam scores, and/or other applicable information to the department chair/program coordinator. Demonstration of knowledge may also be required by some departments through department assessments.
  - Credit will only be awarded to training that has been completed within the last 5 years.
  - Click **HERE** for a list of currently accepted Industry Certifications

- Published guides
  - American Council on Education (ACE) for military training and experience
  - ACE (non-collegiate) for industrial and corporate training programs
  - Other published guides developed by nationally recognized organizations

- Apprenticeship training
  - Apprenticeship training can be transcripted under the guidelines of articulation agreements. Please consult with the department chair to determine if any given apprenticeship training program is covered by an existing articulation agreement.

- Portfolio examination
  - Students may request credit for a course that does not have an established method for granting CPL. In these cases, students should discuss with the appropriate department chair/program coordinator whether the submission of a portfolio will be accepted.
  - The department chair/program coordinator will determine what elements and artifacts should be included in the portfolio.

- Military educational and training credit
  - STLCC awards credit based on the American Council on Education's (ACE) recommendations. Active-duty soldiers or retired veterans are required to submit their Joint Service Transcript (JST) to STLCC if they would like to be awarded CPL for any previous, applicable trainings.

Is there a cost involved?

Under certain conditions, there may be a fee.

- There is no fee associated with posting standardized test scores, industry credentials, military transcripts, apprenticeship training, or other similar learning assessments.
- Assessment of Prior Learning that requires significant attention from a faculty members, such as the direction and evaluation of a portfolio or the assessment of a skills demonstration, may warrant compensation for the faculty member. Faculty will initiate a "Self-Directed Learning" form to receive compensation for their work if this applies.
- The fee for posting credits on the student's transcript for skills demonstration, portfolio review, or other individualized assessment is equivalent to one credit hour of the tuition at STLCC for each course that credit is awarded, based on the residency status of the student.
    - The fee is waived in applied music courses.
- The College Board Entrance Exam Board charges a non-negotiable fee as it pertains to CLEP. STLCC charges a $20.00 fee to proctor CLEP exams for non-students; current students are not charged a fee.

Does CPL meet the residency requirement for graduation?

No. Although CPL is used to fulfill degree/certificate graduation requirements, it may not be applied toward a student's residency requirement.

Will I receive grades for CPL?

Although all work assessed for CPL must meet or exceed "C" level work, letter grades are not assigned. CPL is given the "grade" of "R". "R" grades simply indicate that credit has been awarded. CPL will display on the transcript with the corresponding course and the "R".

When can CPL be awarded?

CPL can be awarded when at least one STLCC credit hour has been successfully completed and transcripted on the student's records.

Will CPL increase my GPA?

No. Since students are not given letter grades for CPL and rather credit, the GPA will not be affected.

Can I appeal a CPL decision?

Yes. Please follow the Standard Appeal Procedure.

List of Currently Accepted AP Tests and Scores

Students who have successfully completed college-level courses in high school may be eligible for credit or placement if they make satisfactory scores on the Advanced Placement Examination sponsored by the College Board. Sponsoring high schools that offer Advanced Placement (AP) classes provide for AP examinations at the end of the course. Students must arrange to have the scores of the AP exams sent from The College Board to STLCC. College credit is granted for students earning a minimum score of three (3) on the exam. There is no fee for posting this credit on a student's transcript.

Subject	STLCC Course Equivalent	Required Score	Credits Awarded
Art History	ART 101	3+	3
Biology	BIO 111	3+	3
Calculus AB	MTH 210	3+	5
Calculus BC	MTH 220	3+	5
Chemistry	CHM 105	3+	5
Chinese Language and Culture	CHI 101, CHI 102	3+	8
Comparative Government and Politics	PSC 000	3+	3
Computer Science A	IS 103, 123	3+	4
English Language and Composition	ENG 101	3+	3
English Literature and Composition	ENG 201	3+	3
Environmental Sciences	BIO 117	3+	3
European History	HST 128	3+	3
French Language and Culture	FRE 101, 102	3	8
	FRE 101, 102, 201	4-5	12
German Language and Culture	GER 101, 102	3	8
	GER 101, 102, 201	4-5	12
Human Geography	GEG 000	3+	3
Italian Language and Culture	ITL 103, 104	3+	8
Japanese Language and Culture	JPN 101, 102	3+	8
Latin	ELC 000	3+	4
Macroeconomics, Principles of	ECO 151	3+	3
Microeconomics, Principles of	ECO 152	3+	3
Music Theory	MUS 101	3+	4
Physics B	PHY 111	3+	4
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	PHY 223	3+	5
Physics C: Mechanics	PHY 122	3+	5
Physics 1	PHY 111	3+	4
Physics 2	PHY 112	3+	4
Psychology	PSY 200	3+	3
Spanish Language and Culture	SPA 101, 102	3	8
	SPA 101, 102, 201	4-5	12
Statistics	BUS 201	3+	3
Studio Art: Drawing	ART 109	3+ w/ portfolio	3
Studio Art: 2-D Design	ART 107	3+ w/ portfolio	2
Studio Art: 3-D Design	ART 207	3+ w/ portfolio	2
US Government and Politics	PSC 101	3+	3
US History	HST 000	3+	3
World History	HST 119	3+	3

List of Currently Accepted CLEP Tests and Scores

The College Level Examination Program (CLEP) is designed by The College Board to evaluate college-level learning, no matter how or where the learning took place. STLCC students meeting the minimum passing score may earn the credits and course exemptions. Students interested in taking CLEP exams should meet with an academic advisor to obtain information about testing centers, exam information and registration procedures.

Students who have taken prior CLEP tests at other institutions should arrange to have a copy of the test scores sent directly to the College Registrar from The College Board.

When the exam is similar in content to a course offered by STLCC, credit will be equated to a specific course. When no course equivalent exists at STLCC, credit may be granted as elective hours in the same field as the examination. Students should note that credit will not be given for CLEP exams if the student has existing college credit for the equivalent course.

Exam	Minimum Passing Score	STLCC Course Equivalent
American Government	50	PSC 101
American Literature with Essay	50	ENG 204 **-or-** ENG 205
Analyzing and Interpreting Literature	50	ENG 201, ENG 202
Biology	50	BIO 111
Calculus	50	MTH 210
Chemistry	50	CHM 105, CHM 106
College Algebra	50	MTH 160
College Composition	50	ENG 101
College Mathematics	50	MTH 108, MTH 124
English Literature with Essay	50	ENG 211
Financial Accounting	50	ACC 110
French Language	50	FRE 101, FRE 102
German Language	50	GER 101, GER 102
History of the US I w/ Department Essay	50	HST 101
History of the US II w/ Department Essay	50	HST 102
Human Growth & Development	50	PSY 205
Humanities	50	HUM 101, HUM 102
Information Systems & Computer Applications	50	IS 103
Introduction to Business Law	50	BLW 101
Macroeconomics, Principles of	50	ECO 151
Management, Principles of	50	MGT 204
Marketing, Principles of	50	MKT 203
Microeconomics, Principles of	50	ECO 152
Precalculus	50	MTH 185
Psychology, Intro	50	PSY 200
Social Science & History	50	ELC 000
Sociology, Introductory	50	SOC 101
Spanish Language	50	SPA 101, SPA 102
Western Civilization I	50	HST 115
Western Civilization II	50	HST 117

List of Currently Accepted Industry Credentials

Students can earn credit for some courses by demonstrating knowledge received through earning industry credentials. Students interested in receiving credit for this type of prior experience should provide a copy of a certificate of completed training, a lesson plan or training content (if available), dates of attendance, proficiency exam scores, and/or other applicable information to the department chair/program coordinator. Demonstration of knowledge may also be required by some departments through department assessments. Credit will only be awarded to training that has been completed within the last five years.

STLCC Course Equivalent	# of Credits	Industry Certification
CUL 101	1	ServSafe: Food Protection Manager Certificate
IS 116	3	Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC3)
IS 118	1	Microsoft Office Specialization (MOS) – Access
IS 119	1	Microsoft Office Specialization (MOS) – Word
IS 125	2	Microsoft Office Specialization (MOS) – Excel
IS 130, IT 102	6	CompTIA A+
IS 151	4	Microsoft Office Specialization (MOS) – Word Microsoft Office Specialization (MOS) – Excel Microsoft Office Specialization (MOS) – Access Microsoft Office Specialization (MOS) – PowerPoint
IS 153, IS 253, IS 283	12	Microsoft Certified Solutions Developer (MCSD)
IS 153, IS 253	8	Microsoft Certified Specialist: C# Programmer
IS 187, IS 287	8	Oracle Certified Associate: Java SE
IS 187, IS 287, IS 288	12	Oracle Certified Professional: Java SE
IS 187, IS 287, IS 288, IS 294	15	Must hold Oracle Certified Professional: Java SE, and Oracle Certified Expert: Java EE Persistence API
IS 187, IS 287, IS 288, IS 296	15	Must hold Oracle Certified Professional: Java SE, and VMWare Certified Spring Professional
IS 229, IS 264	6	LIPIC-1 (Exam 101 and 102) Same as Linux +
IS 237	3	Security +
IT 101	5	Network +
IT 101, IT 201	10	CCENT
IT 101, IT 201, IT 202, IT 203	20	CCNA
IT 102	3	MCTS 70-680 or current equivalent This certification number changes as version changes IS Department at Forest Park verification needed
IT 208	5	640-554 Implementing Cisco IOS Analyst (GCFA) IS Department at Forest Park verification needed
IT 212	3	Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)
IT 214	3	Systems Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP)