Prior Learning Assessment

Lane College values the diversity of our students. This diversity includes the unique experiences, interests, and intellectual pursuits that lead to the acquisition of knowledge that may be at the college level. College-level learning is the same, whether acquired in the traditional college classroom or through non-collegiate sources. This equivalency is validated by academically sound and rigorous prior learning assessment methods. PLA credits awarded by Lane College are equivalent to the same credits awarded for traditional classroom-based college-level learning.

Definition of Prior Learning Assessment

Prior learning assessment (PLA) is a term used to describe learning gained outside a traditional academic environment. Put another way, it is learning, and knowledge students acquire while living their lives, such as by working, participating in employer training programs, serving in the military, studying independently, volunteering or doing community service, and studying open-source courseware. In short, PLA is the evaluation and assessment of an individual's life learning for college credit, certification, or advanced standing toward further education or training. PLA is not confined to portfolio assessment, which is simply one type of PLA (as are CLEP tests, ACE evaluations, challenge exams, etc.).

What experiences may qualify for Prior Learning Assessment at Lane College

- Professional Work Experiences
- Military
- Training Classes
- Professional Skills, Workshops, and Seminars
- Volunteerism
- Qualifying Life Experiences

How much does it cost?

There is a one-time $150.00 fee for Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) course and a $75 per credit fee applied to your program. The PLA course fee is non-refundable.

Who can answer questions about Prior Learning Assessments?

After you have been admitted to Lane College, you will be assigned an Academic Advisor. Speak with your Academic Advisor about whether your experience can qualify for college credit.

How many Prior Learning credits can be applied to my academic program?

Associate's Degree up to 30 credit hours.
Bachelor's Degree up to 60 credit hours.

How to qualify for credits

These are the most common ways to qualify for credits. The final decision for the credit awarded resides with the faculty academic review committee (VP Academic Affairs, Division Chair, and Registrar).

- Certificates
- CLEP Credit (limited to 15 hours)
- Licenses
- Transfer Credit
- Military Credit
- Create a Professional Training Portfolio

Steps:

1. Contact your Academic Advisor.
2. Determine with your Academic Advisor what areas qualify for Prior Learning Assessments.
3. Determine with your Academic Advisor the number of credits to request.
4. Make a formal Prior Learning Assessment Request by enrolling in the PLA Course.
5. Enrollment in the PLA Course is $150.00 (non-refundable).

PLA Course Process:
1. Student writes an essay about what they know about the topic and/or uploads supporting documents*.
2. Student is assigned an academic expert evaluator.
3. Academic Evaluator will follow-up with the student and conduct a telephone interview.
4. Academic Evaluator will review all materials, submit a written report, and make a recommendation for the number of credits.
Student will be billed $75.00 for each credit that is applied.

Standards for Awarding PLA Credit
Requirements for PLA credit to be awarded: Academic credit will be awarded to:
- Admitted students
- Students who have consulted with an academic advisor about the possibility seeking PLA credit
- Students who have declared an academic program
- Courses directly applicable to curriculum requirements of the declared program. Changing majors will result in a reassessment of the applicability of the PLA credit

PLA credit will be awarded with:
A letter grade of "P" will be assigned for credit granted. Because no grade is assigned other than "P," no Quality Points will be awarded to count toward GPA.

NOTES
Create a Professional Training Portfolio.
This portfolio will include a description of an institutional or corporate training course, the date it was completed, number of hours of training and other essential information, such as a course description.

Write an experiential learning essay on an approved topic.
An experiential essay may be written on a list of approved topics using Kolb's experiential model. The essay must demonstrate any knowledge gained from experience.