

PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

I – ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POLICIES

I – 20.0 AWARDING ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR NONTRADITIONAL LEARNING

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| Policy #: | I – 20.0 |
| Effective: | April 2010 |
| Revised: | September 2017 |
| Responsible Dept.: | Instruction and Student Services |

Purpose

Provide a process whereby students may obtain academic credit for nontraditional learning while maintaining the academic integrity of the college's courses and programs.

Policy

VCCS Policy (Policy No. 5.6.5.1) allows for the awarding of credit based on previous academic study or acquired through nontraditional means. This may include, but is not limited to college credit and advancement based upon the administration and evaluation of locally-developed examinations, individual college participation in nationally recognized standardized examinations; experiential learning; and training provided non-collegiate institutions, such as armed forces and service schools.

A. Awarding Credit Based on Examinations

1. Nationally recognized standardized examinations including AP, IB, Cambridge, and CLEP.

Upon receipt of official test scores, PVCC accepts a score of three (3) and higher for Advanced Placement (AP) courses, a score of four (4) or higher for higher level International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, a score of five (5) or higher for standard level International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, a score of fifty (50) or higher on CLEP courses, and scores of C or better for Cambridge Advanced (A/AS) examinations when the equivalent course is offered by PVCC. PVCC assumes no responsibility regarding the acceptance of Advanced Standing credit by other institutions to which the student may transfer.

2. Locally Developed Examinations

Students may satisfactorily demonstrate subject-matter competency by means of an examination developed and evaluated by PVCC's faculty. Examinations are based on established course learning outcomes and are comprehensive. Practical examinations or skills assessments may be required to demonstrate competencies.

3. Relevant industry certification, state, or national licensure.

B. Awarding Credit by Experiential Learning

Credit may be granted for prior learning for non-collegiate education, training, and/or occupational experiences that demonstrate college-level learning as recommended by college faculty, the

American Council on Education (ACE), the National College Credit Recommendation Service, or another college-approved organization. In addition PVCC awards academic credit to any enrolled student who has successfully completed a military training course or program as part of the student's military service that is applicable to the certificate or degree requirements and is recommended for academic credit by a national higher education association that provides academic credit recommendations for military training courses or programs, noted on the student's military transcript issued by any of the armed forces of the United States, or otherwise documented in writing by any of the armed forces of the United States.

Procedures

- **Locally-Developed Examination**
 - 1) Student will select course(s) from approved list for which he/she wishes to receive credit for prior learning.
 - 2) Student will contact the testing center to make an appointment to take the selected examination. I
 - 3) Examinations will be evaluated by faculty within 10 business days during the academic semester.
 - 4) The Division Dean will submit approval of Credit for Advanced Standing to the PVCC Registrar within 10 business days during the academic semester.

- **Nationally Recognized Standardized Examinations**
 - 1) Student will complete examination through a third-party provider. Many third-party providers offer testing at PVCC's Testing Center (including Pearson VUE and Certiport).
 - 2) Student will present certificate of successful completion of examination to the Division Dean of the program in which the student is enrolled.
 - 3) The Division Dean will submit approval of Credit for Advanced Standing to the PVCC Registrar within 10 business days during the academic semester.

- **Experiential Learning**
 - 1) Student will consult the Division Dean of the program in which the student is enrolled.

- **Armed Forces and Service Schools (Including Police Academies)**
 - 1) Student will complete a transcript Evaluation Request Form so that the Registrar can determine credit transferrable to PVCC. Student should obtain the form from Admissions and Advising or on the college website.

CREDIT AWARDED BASED UPON LOCALLY-DEVELOPED EXAMINATIONS

| Course(s) | Method of Evaluation |
|---|---|
| CSC 110 Introduction to Computing | Examination |
| ETR 113 DC and AC Fundamentals I | Examination |
| ETR 141 Electronics I | Examination |
| HLT 141-Introduction to Medical Terminology | Examination |
| ITD 110 Web Page Design I | Examination |
| NAS 2-Foundations of Life Science | Examination |
| NUR 230-Pharmacology | Examination (available only to licensed LPNs) |

CREDIT AWARDED BASED UPON NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STANDARDIZED EXAMINATIONS

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| BLD 215 – OSHA 30 Construction Safety | OSHA 30-Hour Construction Training Course |
| ETR 113 – DC AC Fundamentals I, ETR 156 – Digital Circuits and Microprocessor Fundamentals, MEC 155 – Mechanisms, <u>AND</u> MEC 161 – Basic Fluid Mechanics | Siemens Certified Mechatronics System Assistant |
| HLT 100 – First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) | American Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED (For healthcare programs, verify eligibility of advance standing for this certification with Division Dean.) |
| EMS 111-Emergency Medical Technician EMS 120-Emergency Medical Technician Clinical | National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians https://www.nremt.org/rwd/public |
| IND 243 – Introduction to Mechatronics | MSI Manufacturing Specialist OR MSSC Certified Product Technician |
| ITE 119 – Information Literacy | IC3 Digital Literacy Exam <u>AND</u> projectSAILS Information Literacy Exam* |
| ITE 120 – Principles of Information Systems | IC3 Digital Literacy Exam <u>AND</u> projectSAILS Information Literacy Exam* |
| ETR 164 – Upgrading and Maintaining PC Hardware <u>AND</u> ITN 106 – Microcomputer Operating Systems | CompTIA A+ Certification |
| ITN 101 – Introduction to Network Concepts | CompTIA Network+ Certification |
| ITN 111 – Server Administration | CompTIA Server+ Certification |
| ITN 170 – Linux System Administration | CompTIA Linux+ Certification |
| ITN 260 – Network Security | CompTIA Security+ Certification |
| SAF 130 – Industrial Safety – OSHA 10 | OSHA 10-Hour Industry Training Course |

*Additional Information for ITE 119 and ITE 120

IC3 Digital Literacy Exam ([More Information](#))

This certification requires the completion of three examinations: Computing Fundamentals, Key Applications, and Living Online. Vouchers can be [purchased](#) as a bundle or as three separate vouchers. All three exams must be completed successfully in order for this certification to be eligible for advanced standing.

projectSAILS Information Literacy Exam

Students should contact the PVCC Testing Center to schedule this exam. There is an exam fee of \$6.