



House Bill 4059 – Credit for Prior Learning Report: Executive Summary - December 2014

The responsibility for implementing HB 4059 was given to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). A Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Advisory Committee was appointed by the Commission to organize and complete work associated with achieving the goals as set forth in HB 4059.

The Advisory Committee developed a Strategic Framework to help guide the Committee's work. The Framework was developed based upon research conducted and information obtained during the course of the Advisory Committee's work. The Framework is organized by the goals outlined in HB 4059 and serves as the work plan for the Advisory Committee.

The Framework called out the need for the development of CPL Standards. The Standards were developed with input from Oregon's postsecondary institutions and were adopted by the HECC in May 2014. Eight areas are covered by the Standards:

- Credit for Prior Learning Requisites
- Evidence-Based Assessment
- Tuition and Fee Structure
- Transferability and Transcription
- Data Collection & Reporting
- Faculty & Staff Development
- Quality Assurance in Response to HB 4059
- Transparency/Access

In order to help inform the HECC and Oregon's postsecondary institutions of the promising practices and challenges associated with the implementation of the CPL Standards, a CPL Pilot Project was formed. Eleven institutions representing the four postsecondary sectors volunteered to participate. The pilot is scheduled to run through December 2015 and includes quarterly reporting, technical assistance and professional development opportunities.

It is important to acknowledge that there are costs associated with offering CPL. While many institutions recognize the value of offering CPL to students, the costs associated with assessing student work are often prohibitive. In order to address these concerns and to begin exploring possible funding recommendations for CPL related-activities, the CPL Advisory Committee formed a CPL Funding and Cost Analysis Workgroup. The primary goals of the Workgroup are to identify:

- Institutional Costs
- How the HECC can provide funding to support institutions
- Costs to the student

As work continues by the HECC and the CPL Advisory Committee to meet the goals of HB 4059, the following recommendations should continue to be addressed in 2015:

- Continue support for the development of a statewide data system.
- Identify promising practices throughout the state and nation for awarding CPL. Use this information to enhance new and existing CPL opportunities in Oregon;
- Identify factors that encourage students to pursue and attain CPL. Conversely, identify barriers, including financial issues that students encounter;
- Promote transparency and adherence to established standards among institutions by assisting them in developing guidelines for awarding credit and
- Continue support of CPL Pilot Project activities

In addition, it is necessary for the HECC and CPL Advisory Committee to address the following areas in 2015:

- Ensure credit awarded is in compliance with established policies, standards, and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities requirements. Seek input from institutions regarding transfer of credit and other regulatory requirements;
- Identify promising practices throughout the state and nation for assessing prior learning. Use this information to improve assessment practices;
- Provide professional development opportunities for faculty and staff involved with assessment to improve and to further develop effective assessment practices;
- Identify work load issues for faculty and determine how faculty will be compensated for professional development and assessment of prior learning;
- Identify funding sources and apply for grants to support faculty and staff to develop new assessment techniques for dissemination;
- Develop opportunities for faculty and staff to regularly discuss new assessment practices and credit yield for prior learning at regional and/or statewide meetings; and
- Disseminate exemplary practices and procedures identified at these meetings

The CPL Advisory Committee will develop and adopt a detailed 2015 Work Plan no later than January 2015. A report on the progress and status of the above recommendations will be made quarterly to the HECC Student Success and Institutional Subcommittee.