

**FAQs - CPL Standards Revisions  
June 2017**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
1. Are all institutions, public and private, <u>required</u> to offer CPL	No, the institution is responsible for deciding whether CPL credit will be awarded based on institutional policies. The decision to <i>offer or not to offer</i> CPL to students is solely determined by the institution. The decision to offer CPL must be communicated to students, faculty and staff through the printed college catalog, the institution’s electronic publications and website.
2. What institutions must comply with these standards?	Institutions from Oregon’s four higher education sectors as stipulated in HB 4059: 1) public universities 2) community colleges, 3) independent not-for-profit colleges and universities and 4) private for profit degree granting colleges.
3. Are for profit <u>degree granting</u> colleges and universities required to comply with the Oregon CPL Standards?	Yes. The primary goal for the CPL standards is to “ensure the integrity of the degree” and to promote transparency among institutions (CPL Standard 1.1). This is achieved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) complying with the CPL Standards which include quality provisions aligned with NWCCU standards (see below), and</li> <li>2) developing “institutional policies and procedures for awarding credit in response to the CPL Standards” (CPL Standard 1.1).</li> </ul> <p>These policies must be in place and followed to award CPL credit and to maintain the integrity of the degree or certificate.</p>
4. Are <u>non-degree granting</u> for profit private career colleges or schools required to comply with the Oregon CPL Standards?	No. HB 4059 is focused on increasing “the number of students who receive academic credit for prior learning and the number of students who receive academic credit that count toward their major or toward earning their degree, certificate or credential”. <p>However, these non-degree granting college and schools should consider the merits of the CPL Standards if this type of credit is awarded to ensure instructional quality. Developing college and school policies would also help students understand what type of credit is available based on their previous formal and informal educational experiences.</p> <p>To facilitate communications among the various entities, representatives from the Northwest</p>

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	Career Colleges Federation serve on the CPL Advisory Committee.
5. Are Assessment Based Learning (accelerated learning), International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs subject to the provisions set forth in the CPL Standards?	No, assessment-Based Learning, the International Baccalaureate curriculum and Advanced Placement are associated with classroom instruction at the <u>high school</u> level. CPL standards are designed to assess student learning acquired outside the formal <u>postsecondary</u> classroom. Assessment methods are designed to identify what a student has learned through one's life and work experience outside the classroom that is equivalent to learning gained through formal collegiate instruction. (CPL Standard 1.4).
6. Does an institution need to develop policies and procedures for awarding CPL credit based on the CPL standards?	Yes. Institutional policies are imperative to guide decisions about awarding CPL credit.
7. Do the policies have to be formally approved/adopted by an institution's governing board (includes universities, community colleges, independent colleges or private degree granting institutions). Does this mean the policy has to appear on a board agenda and voted on?	Yes, for both statements as per HB 4059 which states: "(c) Develop transparent policies and practices in awarding academic credit for prior learning to be adopted by the governing boards of public universities, community colleges and independent institutions of higher education".
8. My degree granting institution is not accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Do I need to comply with the Oregon CPL Standards?	Yes, all public and private degree granting, profit and non-profit higher education institutions were included in HB 4059. Institutions from these sectors that decide to offer CPL must comply with the CPL Standards. These standards are aligned with the NWCCU standards to ensure accredited institutions comply with their standards.
9. What types of CPL have to be notated on the transcript?	All types of CPL awarded by an institution must be notated on the transcript as such and notations must comply with applicable state, and federal regulations and NWCCU accreditation policies and standards, as applicable. (CPL Standard 4.4).

## **Resources**

### **NWCCU Standard 2.C.7**

Credit for prior experiential learning, if granted, is: a) guided by approved policies and procedures; b) awarded only at the undergraduate level to enrolled students; c) limited to a maximum of 25% of the credits needed for a degree; d) awarded only for documented student achievement equivalent to expected learning achievement for courses within the institution's regular curricular offerings; and e) granted only upon the recommendation of appropriately qualified teaching faculty. Credit granted for prior experiential learning is so identified on students' transcripts and may not duplicate other credit awarded to the student in fulfillment of degree requirements. The institution makes no assurances regarding the number of credits to be awarded prior to the completion of the institution's review process.

### **NWCCU Standard 2.C.8**

The final judgment in accepting transfer credit is the responsibility of the receiving institution. Transfer credit is accepted according to procedures which provide adequate safeguards to ensure high academic quality, relevance to the students' programs, and integrity of the receiving institution's degrees. In accepting transfer credit, the receiving institution ensures that the credit accepted is appropriate for its programs and comparable in nature, content, academic quality, and level to credit it offers. Where patterns of student enrollment between institutions are identified, the institution develops articulation agreements between the institutions.

### **NWCCU Standard 2.D.10**

The institution designs, maintains, and evaluates a systematic and effective program of academic advisement to support student development and success. Personnel responsible for advising students are knowledgeable of the curriculum, program requirements, and graduation requirements and are adequately prepared to successfully fulfill their responsibilities. Advising requirements and responsibilities are defined, published, and made available to students.