



April 16, 2021

Prior Learning Assessment Partnership Proposal

The Innovation Task Force Work Group on Prior Learning Assessment has recommended the following pilot process to increase opportunities for students not currently engaged in the Utah System of Higher Education to obtain college course equivalencies through exams and portfolio assessment options.

The Board of Higher Education adopted an updated PLA policy in January of 2021 which increased the opportunities by which USHE colleges can award credit leveraging well-respected exam systems like AP, CLEP, and others. Critical to the acceptance of credit is that credit awarded be standardized across the System. Faculty are the designated group to review curriculum and identify equivalencies.

USHE will leverage the existing major committees to evaluate new PLA opportunities using the below pilot process. The major committees are empowered to identify potential equivalencies or to exclude specific exams which do not meet course equivalencies.

Suggested Pilot Courses			
StraighterLine Course \$25 per exam or \$149/month membership	Excelsior College Exams \$110 - \$500 per exam	Thomas Edison State College Examination Program (TECEP) \$50 - \$75 per exam	USHE Potential Equivalent
POLS 101 – American Government	POL 170 – Political Science	World History from 1600 to Present (HIS-126-TE) Introduction to Political Science (POS-101-TE) Introduction to Comparative Politics (POS-282-TE)	POLS 1100 – American National Government
PHIL 101 – Introduction to Philosophy	PHI 101 – Introduction to Philosophy	Introduction To Critical Reasoning (PHI-130-TE)	PHIL 1000 – Introduction to Philosophy

PSY 101 – Introduction to Psychology	PSY 101 – Introduction to Psychology	Abnormal Psychology (PSY-350- TE)	PSY 1010 – General Psychology
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Pilot Process:

- USHE request full content/outcomes and test out exam for each pilot class review from StraighterLine, Excelsior College Exams, and Thomas Edison State College Exams
- USHE convene chairs of the major committees for political science, philosophy, psychology, and sociology and share pilot process and potential outcomes
- USHE request major committee chairs meet with their committee on Zoom to outline the process for content review
- Major committees agree on exam/course & USHE course equivalencies
- Major committee review test-out exam and agree on equivalencies
- Return evaluation decisions to the Commissioner’s office
- USHE adds course equivalencies and test-out exam equivalencies to PLA web page: <https://ushe.edu/initiatives/prior-learning-assessment/>
- USHE identifies the next set of courses to be reviewed by major committees and begins the review process again using the same process

Subsequently to this initial review of courses, USHE will convene a working group made up of members of the major committees to investigate systemwide membership with CAEL. CAEL offers services for portfolio evaluation enabling an extension of the service to students without great investment from campuses. Critical to this conversation will be understanding the quality of reviews and involving faculty in the decision-making process, much like the pilot process proposed above.

Commissioner’s Recommendation

The Commissioner has reviewed this action item and does not have a recommendation.