



## Glossary of Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Terms

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This glossary outlines common terms used in the assessment of prior learning. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

- **Advanced Placement (AP) Exams** – A series of tests developed by The College Board initially for AP High School courses.
- **American Council on Education (ACE) Guides** – Published credit recommendations for formal instructional programs and examinations offered by non-collegiate agencies (including civilian employers, the military, professional associations, and other workplace related-training).
- **College Level Examination Program (CLEP)** – Tests of college material offered by The College Board.
- **Credit By Examination** – A category of PLA methods that includes nationally recognized exams offered by third parties and exams created and given by individual higher education institutions.
- **Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support (DANTES) Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs)** – Examinations administered by Prometric. Although these tests were originally restricted to use by active and retired military personnel, they are now available to civilians.
- **Excelsior College Examination Program (ECE)** – Formerly, Regents College Exams or ACT/PEP Exams, these are examinations for college credit offered by Excelsior College, NY.
- **Institutional Challenge Examinations** – These exams allow students to obtain credit for a course offered at the institution. The institution creates the exam and awards credit for a minimum score, which is usually set by an academic department or instructor.
- **International Baccalaureate Programs (IB)** – The IB Programme is an internationally accepted qualification for entry into institutes of higher education, much like the AP program. The Diploma Program is designed for students aged 16 to 19, and is a two-year curriculum leading to final examinations.
- **Locally Evaluated Industry and Workplace Credit** – Program evaluations of non-collegiate instructional programs done by individual colleges. The types of programs evaluated are industry certifications, professional licensures, apprenticeships, and other local workplace trainings that demonstrate the competencies required for completion of degree or certificate programs.
- **National College Credit Recommendation Service** – Provides college credit equivalencies of training and education programs offered outside the college classroom.
- **Portfolio-based Assessment** – Students develop a summary (paper or electronic) of their learning experiences outside the traditional college classroom that is then assessed by the institution to determine whether academic knowledge and skills have been acquired. Institutions often offer a portfolio-development course for students. The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) provides portfolio-based assessment services, including evaluation of student portfolios completed through LearningCounts.org.
- **Prior Military Training Credit** – College credit for military training that may be awarded through the ACE College Credit Recommendation Service or through direct evaluation of the student's service school transcripts.
- **Thomas Edison State College Examination Program (TECEP)** – Tests for college credit offered by Thomas Edison State College, NJ.