Prior Learning Assessment

Moving from Ideology to Practical Applications

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New Realities in Higher Education

Trends impacting the delivery of degrees:

• Completion agenda
• Increased student debt
• Decreased state funding
• Increased demand for online and distance learning delivery
• External competition: MOOCS
• Accelerated/3 year degrees
• Influx of adult learners
A Changing Paradigm:
Credentialing Knowledge, Not Coursework

- Faculty Member
  - decides content
  - delivers content
  - assesses content knowledge

- Faculty Member
  - facilitates avenues to content
  - assesses content knowledge
Credentialing Knowledge

Flexible learning pathways to faster degree completion and career success

120 Credit Bachelor’s Degree:

88 credits from: Seat time, transfer and PLA credits

Last 32 Credits in Residence

Higher Learning Commission Requirement: for a bachelor’s degree requiring 120 credits, the institution accepts no more than 90 credits in total through transfer or other assessment of prior learning, and the remaining 30 must fall within the last 60 credits awarded the student.
Learning Outcomes Assessment: 
*The Constant in Degree Granting*

**Considerations:**
- Accountability of faculty and the university in degree granting
- Quality of learning
- Faculty workload
- Assignment of partial credit

**Informs:**
- Assessment of prior learning process
- Curricular improvements (i.e. – writing, presentation skills)
Constructs that Support Student Success

- Centralized assessment teams by knowledge areas
- One-stop-shop for student credentialing services
- Focus on general education and gateway to major courses
- Align non-accredited coursework for credit:
  
  i.e. – Flight Commander Training evaluated for management and strategic planning coursework requirements
Priorities

- Methodical approach to change – faculty buy-in
- Importance of positive campus communications
- Champion faculty early-adopters
- Commit to student needs in a changing marketplace:
  - Decrease time to degree
  - Student financial benefits
  - Positive subsidy implications
  - Meeting workforce needs faster
Questions