



PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT IN TENNESSEE: REVITALIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION

Wilson Finch, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

The Completion Agenda in TN: Background

- Public Policy Audit – 2009
- **Complete College Tennessee Act (CCTA) – 2010**
- Institution Missions Revised – 2010
- Master Plan Developed – 2010
- **Tennessee Transfer Pathways Developed – 2010-2011**
- **Performance-Based Funding Formula Developed and Implemented – 2010-2011**
- **Adult-centered initiatives developed**
 - ▣ Focus groups
 - ▣ Tennessee Adult Strategies Group

The PLA Initiative

□ Goals:

- ▣ Reduce time-to-degree for adult students.
- ▣ Expand access to and options for PLA to adult learners in all Tennessee colleges and universities
- ▣ Use PLA as an incentive for adults to return to school and as a tool to pursue increased degree attainment

□ Focus:

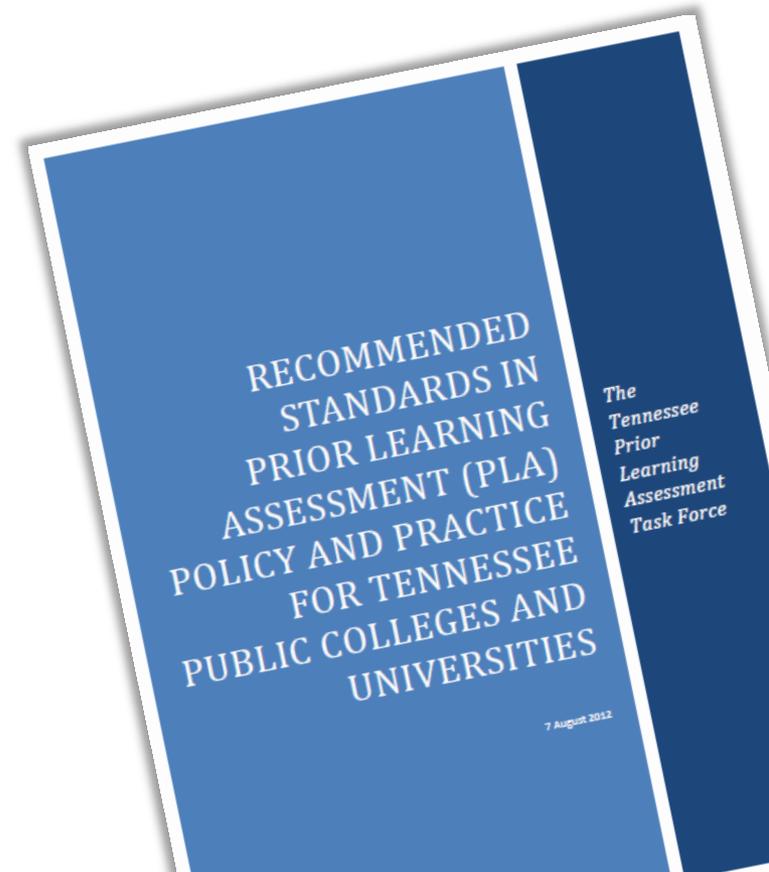
- ▣ Increasing consistency
- ▣ Increasing access
- ▣ Increasing awareness

□ Elements:

- ▣ PLA Task Force
- ▣ Statewide PLA Standards
- ▣ Training
- ▣ Workforce Outreach
- ▣ Marketing

Highlights of TN PLA Standards

- Value Statement
- Standards for Awarding Credit
- Internal Procedures
- Portfolio-specific Standards
- Transfer



Other Areas of Agreement



- Tracking and Transcription
- Credit-by-exam standardization

CLEP Exam Title	RECOMMENDED	APSU	ETSU	MTSU	TSU	TTU	UOM	UTC	UTK	UTM	CHSCC	CLSCC	COSCC	DSCC	JSCC	MSCC	NASCC	NESCC	PSTCC	RSCC	STCC	VSCC	WSCC	
American Government	Score	50	X	50	50	50	50	X	X	50	X	X	50	X	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	X	50	
	Credit Hours	3	X	3	3	3	3	3	X	X	0	X	X	3	X	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	X	3
American Literature	Score	50	X	50	X	50	50	X	X	X	50	X	X	X	X	50	50	50	50	50	50	X	50	
	Credit Hours	6	X	6	X	6	3	X	X	X	0	X	X	X	X	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	X	6
Analyzing and Interpreting Literature	Score	50	X	50	50	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	50	X	50	50	50	X	50	
	Credit Hours	6	X	6	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	6	X	3	6	X	X	6	
Biology	Score	50	X	50	50	50	50	X	X	50	X	50	X	X	50	X	50	50	50	50	50	X	50	
	Credit Hours	6	X	8	4	6	8	6	X	X	0	X	8	X	X	3	X	8	8	8	6	4	X	6
Calculus	Score	50	X	50	50	55	50	X	X	X	50	X	X	50	X	50	50	50	X	50	X	50	X	50
	Credit Hours	3	X	3	4	8	3	X	X	X	0	X	X	3	X	3	4	4	X	4	X	3	X	4
Chemistry	Score	50	X	50	50	50	50	X	X	52	X	X	50	X	X	50	X	50	50	50	50	50	X	50
	Credit Hours	6	X	3	4	8	8	3	X	0	X	X	4	X	X	3	X	8	8	8	6	8	X	6
College Algebra	Score	50	X	50	50	55	50	X	50	50	X	50	50	X	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	X	X	50
	Credit Hours	3	X	3	3	4	3	3	X	0	0	X	3	3	X	3	3	3	3	3	6	X	X	3
College Composition (also Freshmen)	Score	50	X	50	X	50	50	X	X	X	X	X	50	X	X	X	50	50	50	50	50	50	X	50
	Credit Hours	6	X	3	X	6	6	X	X	X	X	X	6	X	X	X	6	3	3	3	6	3	X	6
College Composition Modular	Score	50	X	X	X	X	50	X	X	X	X	X	50	X	X	50	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Credit Hours	3/6	X	X	X	X	3	X	X	X	X	3	X	X	X	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
College Mathematics	Score	50	X	X	45	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	50	X	X	50	420	50	50	50	50	50	X	X
	Credit Hours	6	X	X	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	X	X	X	3	3	3	3	6	6	6	X	X
English Literature	Score	50	X	50	X	50	50	X	X	50	X	X	50	X	X	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	X	50
	Credit Hours	6	X	6	X	6	3	X	X	X	0	X	X	3	X	X	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Financial Accounting	Score	50	X	50	50	X	50	50	X	50	X	50	50	X	50	50	50	50	X	50	63	X	70	
	Credit Hours	3	X	6	3	X	3	3	X	X	0	X	6	6	X	3	6	3	6	X	6	3	X	6
French Language, Level I	Score	50	X	50	X	50	50	X	X	50	50	X	50	X	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	X	50
	Credit Hours	6	X	6	X	6	6	X	X	0	0	X	6	6	X	3	6	3	6	6	6	6	6	X
French Language, Level II	Score	59	X	59	X	62	59	X	X	59	59	X	X	X	X	62	59	50	62	62	62	X	59	
	Credit Hours	12	X	12	X	6	12	X	X	0	0	X	X	X	X	6	6	12	12	12	12	6	X	6
German Language, Level I	Score	50	X	50	X	X	50	X	X	40	50	X	X	X	X	X	50	X	50	50	50	X	50	
	Credit Hours	6	X	6	X	X	6	X	X	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	3	X	6	6	6	X	X	6
German Language, Level II	Score	60	X	63	X	X	60	X	X	48	60	X	X	X	X	X	63	X	63	63	X	X	59	
	Credit Hours	12	X	12	X	X	12	X	X	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	6	X	12	12	X	X	6	
History of the United States I	Score	50	X	50	50	50	50	X	X	50	X	50	50	X	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	X	50
	Credit Hours	3	X	3	3	3	3	3	X	X	0	X	3	3	X	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	X	3
History of the United States II	Score	50	X	50	50	50	50	X	X	50	X	51	50	X	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	X	50
	Credit Hours	3	X	3	3	3	3	X	X	0	X	3	3	X	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	X	3
Human Growth and Development	Score	50	X	50	X	X	50	50	X	50	X	50	50	X	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	X	X	50
	Credit Hours	3	X	3	X	X	3	3	X	X	0	X	3	3	X	3	3	3	3	3	3	X	X	3
Humanities	Score	50	X	50	X	X	X	421	X	X	X	X	50	X	50	X	420	50	50	50	50	X	X	50
	Credit Hours	6	X	6	X	X	X	3	X	X	X	3	X	3	X	3-6	6	3	6	3	6	X	X	6
Information Systems and Computer Applications	Score	50	X	50	X	X	50	X	X	50	X	50	50	X	X	X	50	X	50	50	50	50	X	50
	Credit Hours	3	X	3	X	X	3	X	X	0	X	3	3	X	X	X	3	X	3	3	3	3	X	3
Introduction to Educational Psychology	Score	50	X	50	X	50	50	X	X	50	X	50	50	X	X	X	50	X	X	50	X	50	X	50
	Credit Hours	3	X	3	X	3	3	X	X	0	X	3	3	X	X	X	3	X	X	3	X	X	X	3
Introductory Business Law	Score	50	X	50	50	51	X	50	X	50	X	50	50	X	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	X	50
	Credit Hours	3	X	3	3	3	X	3	X	0	X	X	3	X	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	X	3
Introductory Psychology	Score	50	X	50	50	55	50	X	X	47	50	X	50	X	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	X	50
	Credit Hours	3	X	3	3	3	3	X	X	0	X	3	3	X	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	X	3
Introductory Sociology	Score	50	X	50	50	50	50	X	X	52	50	X	50	X	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	X	50
	Credit Hours	3	X	3	3	3	X	X	X	0	0	X	3	3	X	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	X	3
Natural Sciences	Score	50	X	50	X	50	X	421	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	50	50	X	50	X	X	X	50
	Credit Hours	6	X	3	X	8	X	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	8	X	6	X	X	X	6
Precalculus	Score	50	X	50	X	50	X	X	X	50	X	X	50	X	X	X	50	50	50	X	50	X	X	50
	Credit Hours	3	X	3	4	X	3	X	X	X	0	X	X	3	X	X	6	3	5	X	6	X	X	3

The PLA Initiative: Results

□ Challenges

- ▣ Some faculty objections
- ▣ System/campus acceptance
- ▣ Campus-level implementation and capacity

□ Successes

- ▣ Workable and substantial standards
- ▣ Platform for collaborative work
- ▣ Positive results with outreach to campuses and workforce

Contact Information



Wilson Finch

Tennessee Higher Education Commission

615-741-2204

Wilson.Finch@tn.gov