

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT



STUDENT FEES FOR PLA

Standardized Exams

Students will pay registration fees to CLEP or DSST.

Review of Professional Training, Licenses, and Transcripts

Free of charge

PLA Portfolio for University Studies Credit

Tuition for a one credit hour course, LU 205, "Prior Learning Assessment Seminar:" \$600.

PLA for a Lewis Course

Challenge Exam: \$100, Portfolio: \$150 (an additional \$50 is charged for each additional academic subject beyond the initial portfolio)

Posting Fees

For all forms of PLA, students will pay a posting fee for credits earned (\$40 per credit hour recorded on the Lewis University transcript)



For More Information, contact:
Dr. Anne Rapp, PLA Coordinator
rappan@lewisu.edu

School for Professional
and Continuing Education

One University Parkway
Romeoville, IL 60446-2200

(815) 836-5570 ~ (815) 838-8990 fax
www.lewisu.edu/spce

Earn College Credit
For What You Know

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT (PLA)

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is the process of earning college credit from learning developed through work, training, volunteer experiences, self-directed learning projects, and personal life. Degree-seeking adult undergraduate students at Lewis, in both accelerated and non-accelerated programs, are eligible to earn college credits based on learning gained from experience.



Why do PLA?

Save time. By participating in PLA, a student who studies at the rate of 6 credits per semester can save as much as 5 semesters or 2.5 years from the time to degree completion.

Save money. This process can save as much as \$16,000 from the cost of the degree.

Be recognized for what you know. If you have college-level learning from your experiences, you can have this learning recognized and used to support your path to the degree.

FOUR WAYS TO EARN PLA

PLA Portfolio for University Studies Credit

Lewis provides this path for students who have space in their degree plans for elective credits. In this process, the university recognizes the learning gained through work, travel, volunteer, and self-directed learning projects. Students pursuing PLA for elective credit do not have to match their learning exactly to a university catalog course. To receive credit, students must write a portfolio that contains a timeline/resume, an introductory essay, and letters of reference. Students who write a portfolio for University Studies Credit must attend a PLA Orientation Session and take a one-credit hour course: LU 205, "Prior Learning Assessment Seminar."

PLA for a Lewis Course

By portfolio. Students may write a PLA Portfolio for a course listed in the *Lewis University Undergraduate Catalog*. Portfolios for course credit must relate a student's learning to the learning outcomes and content of a course. The PLA Portfolio for a course must follow a template that includes an outline, essay, and supporting documentation. Students who write a portfolio for a course must first attend a PLA Orientation Session.

By internal challenge exam. A Challenge Exam is a comprehensive test developed by faculty to evaluate the student's proficiency in a particular college course. The Challenge Exam will cover information as outlined in the

course module, course outline or syllabus, and the required textbook(s). Contact the PLA Coordinator for a list of approved courses.

Military and Professional Training, Certifications and Licenses

Lewis University awards credit for military training and other non-college sponsored learning activities according to current recommendations of the American Council of Education (ACE). College credits may be awarded for work-related training, professional certifications and licensure earned by the student if the organization providing the training program is recognized by the American Council on Education (ACE), and the appropriate Lewis University academic department determines that the certification/license is college equivalent learning.

Proficiency Exams

Student may earn credit for a course by taking a standardized exam, including CLEP (College Level Examination Program), DSST (Dantes Subject Standardized Tests) for active duty military service and veterans, and AP (Advanced Placement Exams) taken in high school. Many students tackle their general education requirements this way. Consult the course catalog to find out which exams Lewis accepts.

PLA POLICIES AND RULES Students may pursue PLA if they are at least 24 years old and a degree-seeking student. Students can begin PLA at any time during their degree program, with two exceptions:

1. PLA credits will not post to a student's transcript until they have earned 12 graded credits at Lewis, and
 2. All credits pursued and earned through PLA must be completed prior to the student's last semester at the University.
 - A maximum of 30 credit hours may be earned at Lewis through PLA.
 - Students may not earn PLA for learning already credited on their transcript.
 - PLA credits earned are posted on a Lewis University transcript on a pass/ no credit basis and do not apply to a student's grade point average or consideration for honors at graduation.
- Credits earned through PLA do not qualify as meeting the 32-hour residency requirement at the University; PLA credits also do not satisfy the transfer credit hour requirement for admission into an accelerated degree program.
 - All students who want to write a PLA Portfolio must attend a PLA Orientation Session. See the SPCE Website for upcoming dates at www.lewisu.edu/academics/spce