

New Program Proposal

Prior Learning Assessment

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UMSL offers superior students options to enhance or accelerate their academic programs through credit by assessment. Students may earn college credit by demonstrating sufficient knowledge of proficiency in a certain area. The Registrar's Office provides detailed information regarding the specific assessments accepted and scores required. Students may earn up to 30 semester hours of credit through the following options:

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) examinations may count for UMSL degree credit if the exams and scores are acceptable. (Note: UMSL awards credit for specific scores on certain Advanced Placement exams that are administered by the College Board, not simply for enrollment in advanced placement courses at the high school level. In order to receive AP credit, students must have official AP score reports sent to UMSL directly from the College Board. Credit cannot be determined from high school or previous college transcripts.)

International Baccalaureate

International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations are tests taken as the culmination of a special high school study program. Several of the Higher Level exams count for credit if the score earned is a 5 or higher.

College Level Examination Program

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams are acceptable for credit in certain areas of study. UMSL accepts only the CLEP Subject Exams. Not all subjects are accepted. Credit is not given for any CLEP General examination. No CLEP Subject Exam may be taken in the final 30 hours of coursework leading to a degree.

Credit by Departmental Assessment

Credit by Departmental Assessment may be earned if a student has previous knowledge or proficiency in an area of study and arranges to complete a departmentally administered formal assessment. If a department chooses to offer credit by assessment, the department must provide an assessment that measures

the same level of proficiency as is required to earn credit for enrollment in the course. Frequently this is the final exam for the course. Before taking a departmental assessment, students must register in the Registration and Records office and obtain a Credit by Departmental Assessment form.

Fees

Consult the Cashier's website for fee information when attempting credit by departmental exam.

Eligibility

Eligibility for credit by departmental assessment requires:

1. Enrollment at UMSL in the semester in which the assessment is administered.
2. No enrollment in the course that is the subject of the assessment during the last three terms.
3. Achievement of a grade of C or above on the assessment in order to receive credit.

Rationale

As UMSL seeks to serve the needs of the returning adult learners in the great St. Louis metropolitan area and to attract an increasing number of adult learners to online degrees, departments are increasingly requesting mechanisms to award credit for prior learning. A clear policy for PLA and CBE will provide expanded recruiting opportunities and serve both our students and their departments well. Other institutions have experienced positive outcomes in being able to assign value to prior learning and competencies that adult learners are bringing to their universities and we are long overdue in providing this option for our students.