

CHANCELLOR'S PROCEDURE FOR POLICY
706.01: CREDIT AWARDED THROUGH NON-TRADITIONAL MEANS:
GENERAL

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) recognizes that learning occurs in a variety of ways. As such, college credit may be awarded for learning obtained through non-traditional means, including, but not limited to nationally recognized examinations, credit awarded for prior learning, military training credit, and local and state-wide articulation agreements. Credit awarded through non-traditional means shall not be included in the 25 percent of total credit hours that must be completed at the college granting the degree. Colleges shall have published policies and procedures for awarding credit through non-traditional means and advising students of the possibility of non-transferability to other institutions.

1. Nontraditional Credit: Academic

Credit Awarded for Examination -- College credit may be awarded through nationally recognized examinations such as: Advanced Placement (AP); College Level Examination Program (CLEP); United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI); Defense Activity for Non-traditional Education Support (DANTES/DSST); or through examinations (challenge exams) developed by the college. In establishing the scores for awarding college credit, colleges should align policies with the policies of their primary transfer institutions.

2. Credit awarded for transcribed military training

- A. Colleges may award credit for academic and technical courses based on equivalent transcribed military training as shown on an Ace Joint Service Transcript or an official transcript from the Community College of the Air Force.
- B. Evaluation of military transcripts will be conducted by the college's registrar in cooperation with the subject matter expert for the credit under consideration.

3. Nontraditional Credit: Career and Technical Education
Credit Awarded for Articulation

A. Students completing courses in the approved Statewide Career and Technical Education Articulation Agreement will receive articulated credit to the Alabama Community College System institution of their choice offering the corresponding program of study. Performance or knowledge testing of secondary program graduates is not required as part of the articulation process. Refer to the ACCS website for the Statewide Articulation Procedural Guide (<https://www.accs.cc/index.cfm/workforce-development/career-technical-education/articulation-documents/>).

4. Awarding Credit Through Prior Learning Assessment

- A. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is a means for a student to receive college level credit for experiential learning that took place in a non-traditional learning environment, such as on-the-job training, military training, professional development seminars, volunteerism, and experience in-field. Awarding of credit through PLA relies heavily on aligning knowledge and skills gained through experience with learning outcomes found in traditional courses of higher education.
- B. Course credit earned from prior learning shall be noted on the student's transcript as having been awarded through PLA. In the process of determining if credit can be awarded for prior learning, institutions may charge students only for the cost of the PLA services and not for the amount of credit awarded. For further guidance and appropriate forms, refer to the Prior Learning Assessment page on the ACCS website <https://www.accs.cc/index.cfm/workforce-development/career-technical-education/prior-learning-assessment/>.