

A CPL Awareness Week Event

From Policy to Practice: A Campus Perspective of CPL Implementation

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE

Audience Survey: Your CPL Experience

Please add your response in the chat.

1. Not related to a college class, name a time you have taken an exam to demonstrate your knowledge.
2. Describe a task you perform on the job that demonstrates a set of skills or competencies in an area.
3. What type of training class (not awarding academic curriculum credit) have you recently attended?

Topics for Today

1. State of CPL today on our campus
2. Where we started in Spring 2025
3. Our Journey
4.  Program Perspective *How the B.S. in Fire and Safety Engineering Technology is Expanding the Use of CPL*
5. The Drivers
6. What's Next - last slide has a take away you can adapt

Your Tour Guides

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Whole ground crew supporting the effort!

Our Chancellor, Provost, Registrar, faculty and staff on campus and across the state

Recognize: Asher Haines, Rachel Powell, Raul Mattheieu Castillo, Paula Ruiz Gutierrez, and many others

Debbie Smith and many others

What is CPL?

Credit for prior learning, or CPL, describes the process of evaluation and recommendation of learning that has occurred outside of the traditional academic environment.

[CAEL](#) (*Council for Adult and Experiential Learning*)



Exams



Portfolio or other
individualized
assessment



Evaluation of noncollege
and noncredit programs

What is CPL?

What CPL Is

CPL assesses learning gained outside the classroom and awards college credit, certification, or advanced standing for it. Also called prior learning assessment (PLA) or recognition of prior learning.

What CPL Isn't

Not an easy shortcut. It does not lower academic quality, bypass faculty, or threaten enrollment. It is not the same as transfer credit, and it does not violate accreditation standards.

*Definition shared by Seth Kamen, Ed.D., 9/22 in CPL 101
State Director of Transfer, Learning Recognition, and Credential Alignment
North Carolina Community College System*

State of CPL at UNC Charlotte New: Fall 2026

1. Flexible undergraduate and graduate policies.
2. A suggested list of criteria used for evaluation and recommendations.
3. 1 FTE and shared responsibilities for implementation.
4. Common on-campus entry point for students.
5. Coalition of the willing faculty and staff deeply committed to the needs of our learners.

State of CPL at UNC Charlotte New: Fall 2026

Charlotte Policies updated in December 2025:

1. [UNC Charlotte Academic Policy and Procedure: Undergraduate Transfer Credit and Credit for Prior Learning](#)
1. [UNC Charlotte Academic Policy: Credit for Prior Learning and Graduate Transfer Credit](#)

Policies explicitly allow for expanded options for assessment methods.

Assessment Methods.
including, but not limited to:

- A. Certification or licensure**
- B. Industry or corporate experience**
- C. Military education and training
- D. Standardized examinations, including advanced course examinations
- E. Challenge exams**
- F. Portfolio assessment**

State of CPL at UNC Charlotte New: Fall 2026

Standardized Exams

Certification and License

Military Experience

Credit by Exam (Challenge Exams)

Professional Development, Workplace Training, Continuing Education

Industry or Work Experience (not life experience)

Lower Variability
Higher

Criteria for Review and Credit Recommendation

College level and meets or exceeds the learning outcomes for the corresponding course.

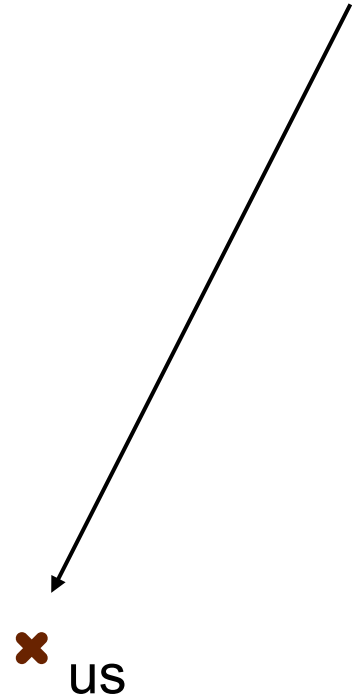
[Policy 700.10.1\[R\], Regulation on Awarding Undergraduate Credit for Prior Learning](#)

Not seeking 100% match. AACRAO standard of 70% match

Academic Standard Recommendation [informed by the ALE](#) (Eligibility requirements)

1. Structured learning with clear objectives and learning outcomes.
2. Training experience must utilize individually scored assessments with a minimum passing score of 70 percent.
3. Lessons or modules must include highly qualified instructors and/or instructional designers.
4. Organization must provide a learning environment that is conducive to learner success, such as:
 - i. Learning management system (online ~~paced~~ learning)
 - ii. Classrooms (in-person learning)
 - iii. Authorized job sites (apprenticeships)
 - iv. Hybrid programs may have a combination of the preceding formats
5. Organizations must store and recall accurate, confidential, and individual student records of completion.

Where We Started Then: Spring 2025



Where We Started Then: Spring 2025

- Standardized exams: AP, IB, CLEP, Cambridge
- Military training
- Credit by exam:
 - College of Computing and Informatics
 - Belk College of Business
- Recognition of Credentials: Ex. Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT)

Our Journey

Interest from the Chancellor and charge from Provost

April 2025

Taskforce members including 5 Associate deans
University Registrar

June 2025

Policies Allow flexibility at the College level.

December 2025

Process Slow and steady. Conversations, examples, listening, research
repeat for each discipline, each department, each program.

Jan- Oct + 2026
Projected to be a
year or more

Fired Up!



Knowledge. Connection. Leadership. | Fire Safety Engineering Technology

UNC Charlotte College of Engineering



CPL Story in the Fire and Safety Engineering Technology, B.S

- CPL is not new a long time in the works
- Story of certifications
- Why give credit? Example IAAI (International Association of Arson Investigators) or NC FIT (NC Fire Investigation Technician)
- Granting credit with this certification?
- Bottom line Yes—Why? They could instruct at a bachelor's master's level depending on experience.

CPL Story in the Fire and Safety Engineering Technology, B.S.

- That is just 1 of many
NC Certified Firefighter-428 hrs multiple controlled
test 1 attempt to retest if fail retake course.
- Giving them credit for 3 hour course EIP 120
Introduction to Fire Protection or here in Charlotte
ETFS 1120
- Looking beyond the course description, understand of t
certification requirements

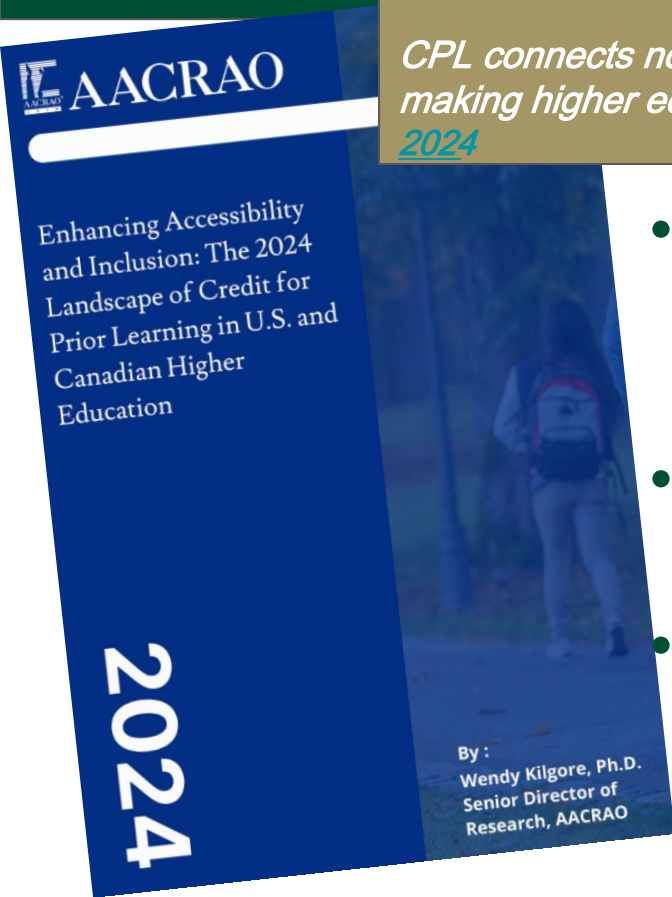
Project Near Completion: Fire Training Equivalency

NC OSFM Certificate	Continuing Ed Course / NCCCS	NCCCS Curriculum Course	UNC Charlotte Equivalency
FLSE II Certification → FRC 1800 + FRC 1801	FIP 2124 Fire Prev & Public Ed	FIP 124	ETFS 2124: Intro to Fire Prevention (3 credits)
FF I & FF II I Certification	FIP 2120 Intro to Fire Protection	FIP 120	ETFS 1120: Intro to Fire Protection (3 credits)
Fire Investigation Technician (FIT) - TRD0042	FIP 2128 Detection & Investigation	FIP 128	ETFS 2126: Fire Investigation and Forensics (3 credits)
IAAI-CFI® (Certified Fire Investigator) Certification	FIP 2128 Detection & Investigation	FIP 128	ETFS 2126: Fire Investigation and Forensics (3 credits)
Fire & Emergency Services Instructor Certification	FIP 3811 + FIP 3812	FIP 224	ETFS 1201: Intro to Fire Safety and Occupational Safety Engineering Tech (2 credits)

Project Near Completion: Fire Training Equivalency ~~part 2~~

NC OSFM Certificate	Continuing Ed Course / NCCCS	NCCCS Curriculum Course	UNC Charlotte Equivalency
Firefighter II & Pump Ops (2014 standard) Certification	FIP 3630 + FIP 3631 + FIP 3632 + FIP 3633 + FIP 3634 + FIP 3635	FIP 146 or FIP 232	ETFS 1244: Water-Based Fire Suppression OR TRNF 1 ELE: Transfer Elective (3 credits)
Firefighter II & Pump Ops (2017 standard) Certification	FIP 3622; or FIP 2232 Hydraulics & Water Dist; or FIP 3623, FIP 3624 + FIP 3625	FIP 146 or FIP 232	ETFS 1244: Water-Based Fire Suppression OR TRNF 1 ELE: Transfer Elective (3 credits)
Hazmat Operations or NC Hazmat Technician - Chemistry of Hazmat	FRC1600 + FRC1601 + FRC 1604, TRD0018 or FIP 2230 or FIP 2231	FIP 230 or FIP 231	ETFS 2230: Hazardous Materials (3) AND ETFS 2203L(1) [4 credits total]

What Drives Us?



CPL connects nontraditional learning experiences and formal academic achievement, making higher education more accessible, inclusive, relevant and practical. AACRAO, 2024

- Increases the likelihood of an adult student completing their degree by over 17% and saves 9.4 months of time to graduation [1]
- Students earn 17.6 more residential credits at their institution after receiving CPL. [1]
- Attracts working adults & provide employment with a means to upskill their workforce through accelerated degree programs. [2]

What is Next? Areas of Expansion

Area of Expansion	Process to Implement
1) Add credit for DSST exams like CLEP and commonly military-affiliated.	Reviewing equivalents at other institutions and making initial credit recommendations for faculty to then review.
2) Scale college credit for national exams, certification or other non-collegiate learning informed by National College Recommendation Services for Accredited Colleges (<u>American Council on Education (ACE)</u>)	Two approaches: Student driven and department driven Build the TCA with faculty and Office of the Registrar approval and sequencing. Future goal is to be proactive, automated, and use recruiting tool SUNY example for IT certification CompTIA CompTIA Network+ prep course = 3 credits in into networking
3) Scale review process for professional credit offered by UNC Charlotte School of Professional Studies to include academic credit other regional providers like Central Piedmont Community College CE.	Crosswalk outcomes for certificates and bootcamps and work with Office of the Registrar to add to Transfer Credit Advisor.
4) Portfolio assessment for individual knowledge learning such as workplace training.	Portfolio writing, submission and evaluation process currently exists but need courses that students can earn via portfolio. Explore mechanism to compensate faculty portfolio reviews.

CPL Package



Credit for Prior Learning Package is designed to be used in the review of CPL.

1. Consolidates the information on training program for faculty review.
Objectives, length, contact hours, instructor qualifications, assessment.
2. Documents the faculty member(s) who reviewed.
3. Records decision to be submitted to the Registrar and recorded in Banner.

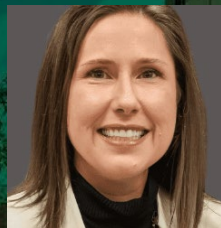


Please contact cplsupport@charlotte.edu with any questions.

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Thank you!

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