

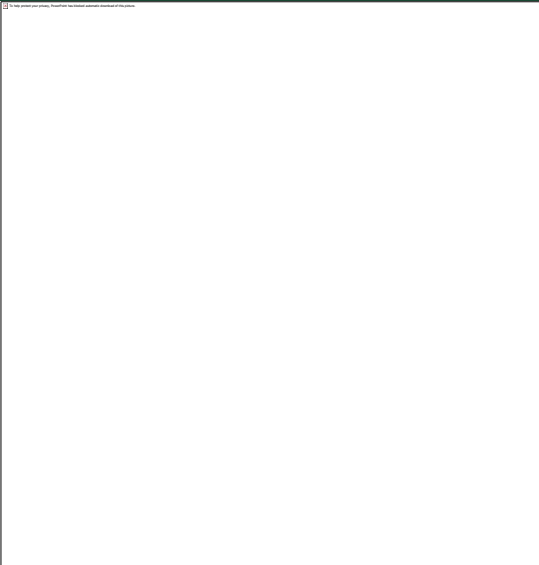


PIEDMONT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING IN THE DISCIPLINES

PRESENTED BY: ALISA MONTGOMERY, MSN, RN, Dean, Health & Public Services

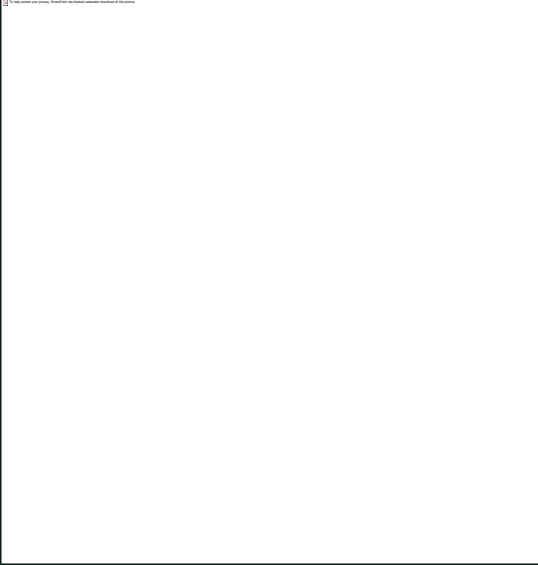
Credit for Prior Learning in Health & Public Safety



HEALTHCARE



EMS



FIRE SERVICE



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Recognizing what adult learners already know—and building the shortest credible path forward.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Why CPL matters to the learner we serve

\$1,500–\$10,200

average tuition savings reported by NCCCS for post-traditional learners using CPL

9–14 months

average reduction in the educational journey for CPL-credit holders

+17%

increased likelihood of credential completion among post-traditional learners using CPL

CPL is a completion strategy

For an adult learner, every unnecessary course can mean another semester of tuition, another schedule conflict, and another barrier between today's job and tomorrow's credential.

CPL is a workforce strategy

Health and public safety professionals often arrive with current credentials, regulated training, field experience, and demonstrated competencies, including soft skills. CPL turns that learning into academic momentum.

KNOW WHO IS IN THE ROOM

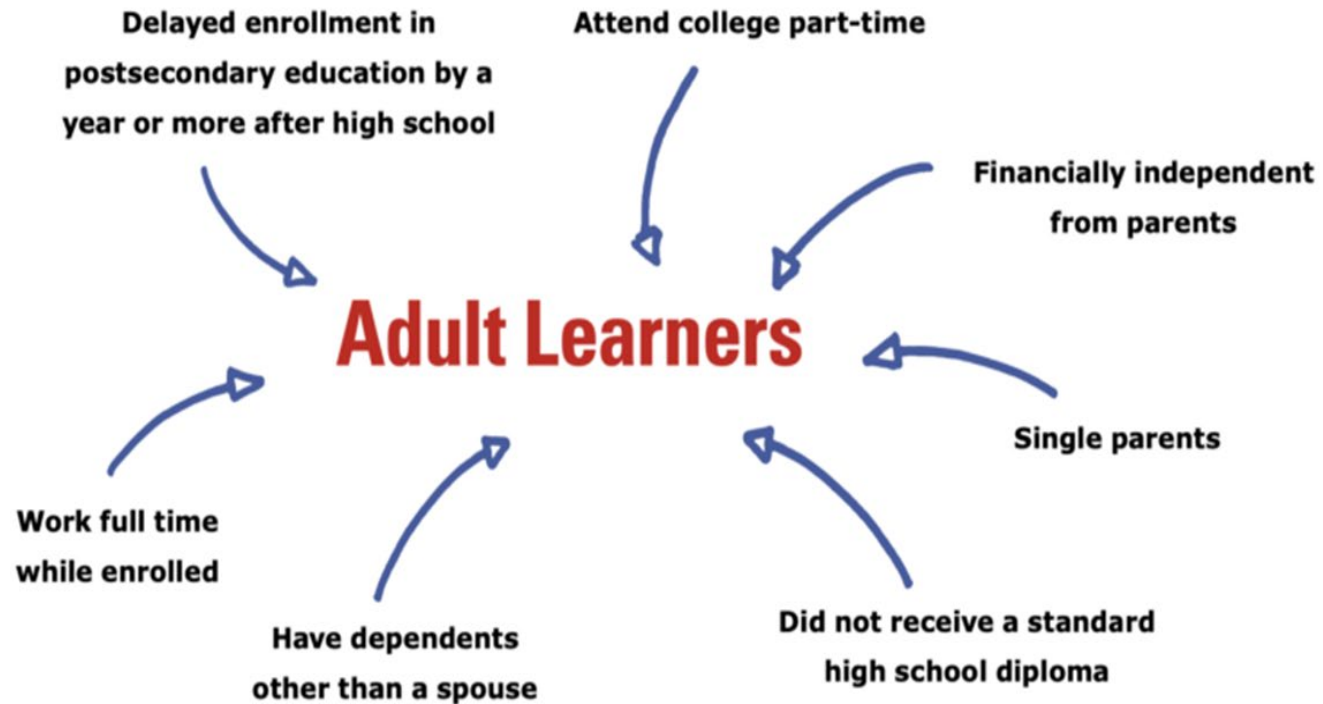
The adult learner may be bringing a résumé, a family, a mortgage, a license, a shift schedule—and years of learning outside the classroom.

WORKING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL

Real-world clinical practice

EMS PROFESSIONAL

Career advancement



LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONAL

Returning student

EXPERIENCED FIREFIGHTER

Hands-on learning

A DIFFERENT STARTING POINT

Adult learners bring different goals, work experience, and values:

GOALS

“I need this credential to move forward.”

Career advancement • Promotion
• Licensure • Career change •
Wage growth

EXPERIENCE

“I have already done much of this.”

On-the-job learning • CE •
Certifications • Military training •
Clinical/Public Safety practice

VALUES

“My time has a cost.”

Efficiency • Relevance • Respect
for experience • Family/Work
balance • A clear return on
investment

CPL says: “We see the learning you already have—and we will assess it fairly.”

PIEDMONT IN PRACTICE

Health programs: industry recognized credentials can become academic credit

Nurse Aide

Current NC Nurse Aide I
Registry or NCBON Nurse
Aide II Listing

PCC equivalency

NAS 101 / NAS 111 or HSE 215 and NAS 102/112

Credit hours

6 + 6

Medical Assisting

CMAA or CEHRS
certification

PCC equivalency

MED 118, 121, 122, 130, 131, OST 148 & 280
Also consider students who aren't successful in a high stakes program. How can we help them? NUR 111 = MED 140, 150, 118, OST 280 but still validate skills per MAERB.

Credit hours

18

Phlebotomy

Certified Phlebotomy
Technician (CPT)

PCC equivalency

PBT 110 & 111

Credit hours

9

EMS

Current EMT / AEMT /
Paramedic

PCC equivalency

Multiple EMS courses based on credential

Credit hours

9 / 17 / 45

The key question changes from “What class should you take?” to “What learning can you already demonstrate?”

PIEDMONT IN PRACTICE

PCC Public Safety programs: credentials and CE are evidence of learning

Firefighter I & II

FIP 120 • 3 credit hours

Hazmat Technician / Level II Responder

FIP 230 • 5 credit hours

Fire Officer II

FIP 226 / 240 / 248 / 276 • 4 credit hours

Certified NC Law Enforcement Officer / Sheriff's Deputy

CJC 121, 131, 132, 221, 225, 231 + PED 110 • 21 credit hours

Sheriff's Detention Officer

CJC 114 & 225 + CJC 232 or 233 • 9 credit hours

NIMS 100-400

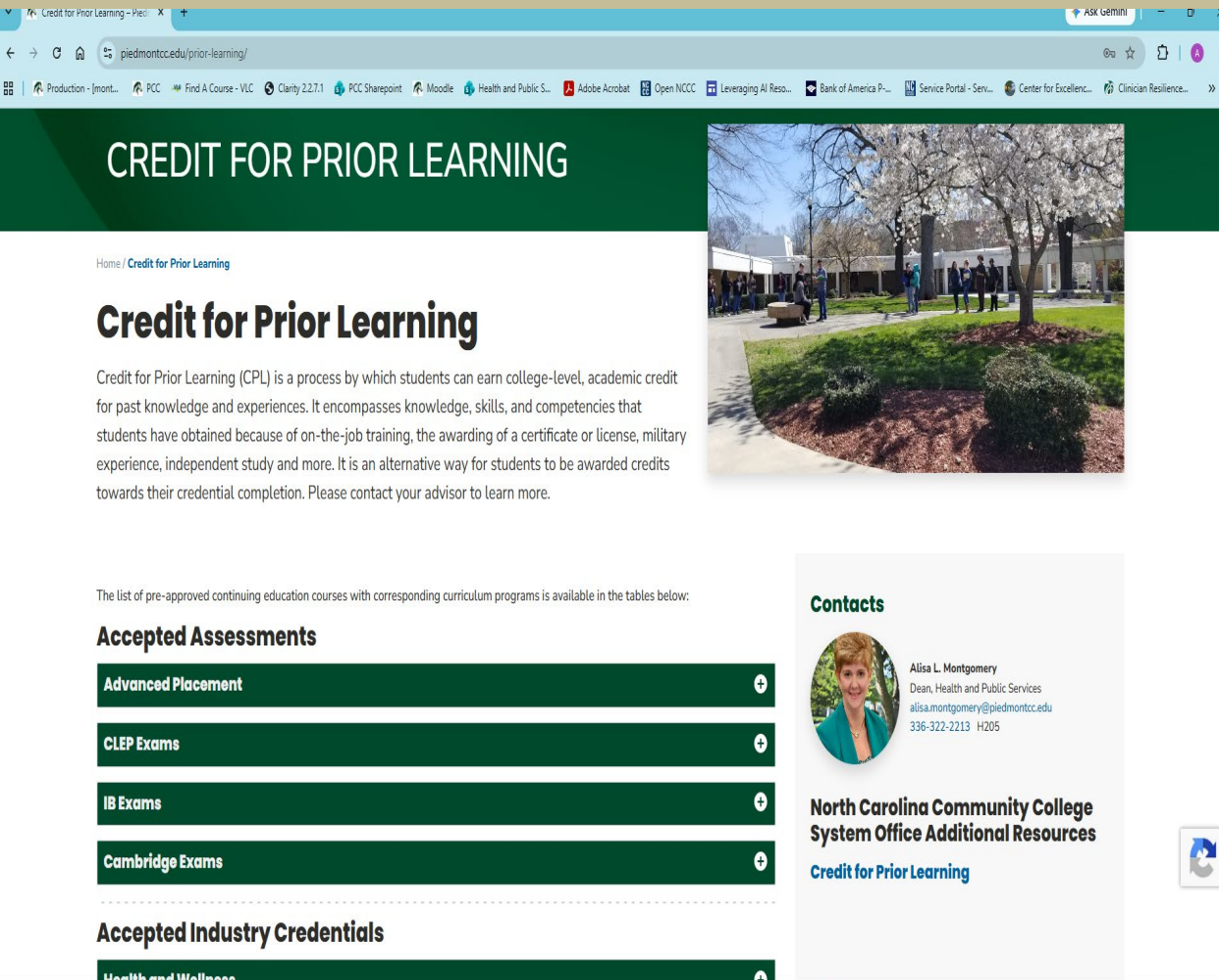
EPT 150 • 3 credit hours

Public safety training is not “less academic.” It is a different site of learning—and CPL creates a bridge into the curriculum.
The goal is not to give credit for a job title. The goal is to award credit for demonstrated college-level learning.

PIEDMONT IN PRACTICE

Make your practices available to students!

Link [here](#)



The screenshot shows the 'Credit for Prior Learning' page on the Piedmont Community College website. The page has a green header with the title 'CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING'. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with links like 'Home / Credit for Prior Learning'. The main content area features a large image of a campus scene with trees and a building. To the left of the image, there is a section titled 'Credit for Prior Learning' with a paragraph explaining the process. Below this, there is a section titled 'Accepted Assessments' with a list of assessment types: 'Advanced Placement', 'CLEP Exams', 'IB Exams', and 'Cambridge Exams'. Each item has a plus icon to its right. Below this list, there is a section titled 'Accepted Industry Credentials' with a list of credentials: 'Health and Wellness'. To the right of the main content area, there is a 'Contacts' section featuring a profile picture of Alisa L. Montgomery, her name, title 'Dean, Health and Public Services', email 'alisa.montgomery@piedmontcc.edu', and phone number '336-322-2213 H205'. Below the contact information, there is a section titled 'North Carolina Community College System Office Additional Resources' with a link to 'Credit for Prior Learning'.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Home / [Credit for Prior Learning](#)

Credit for Prior Learning

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) is a process by which students can earn college-level, academic credit for past knowledge and experiences. It encompasses knowledge, skills, and competencies that students have obtained because of on-the-job training, the awarding of a certificate or license, military experience, independent study and more. It is an alternative way for students to be awarded credits towards their credential completion. Please contact your advisor to learn more.

The list of pre-approved continuing education courses with corresponding curriculum programs is available in the tables below:

Accepted Assessments

- Advanced Placement
- CLEP Exams
- IB Exams
- Cambridge Exams

Accepted Industry Credentials

- Health and Wellness

Contacts

 Alisa L. Montgomery
Dean, Health and Public Services
alisa.montgomery@piedmontcc.edu
336-322-2213 H205

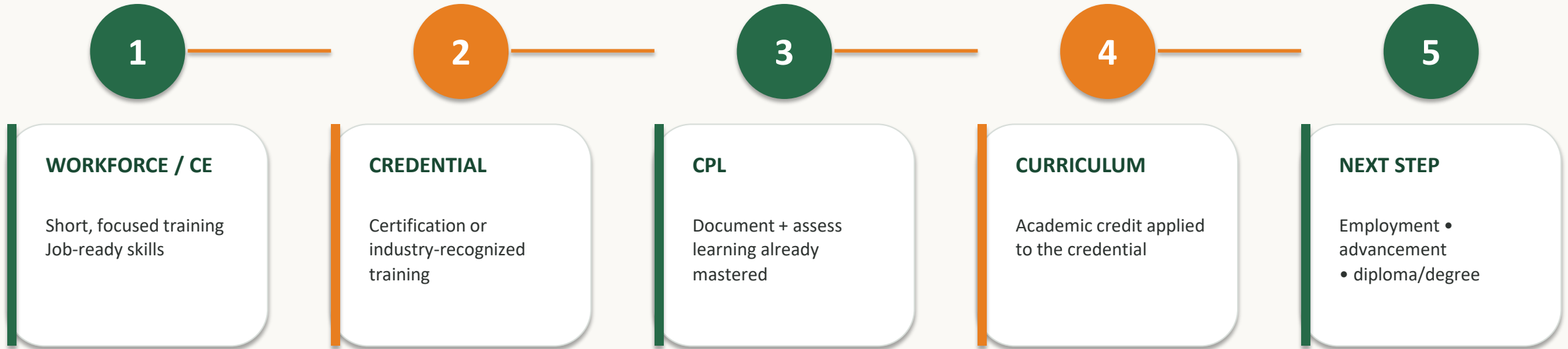
North Carolina Community College System Office Additional Resources

[Credit for Prior Learning](#)

- Make CPL a required part of advising
- Be open to suggestions from students
- Think of it as a puzzle--it takes time and energy--but eventually it all comes together for a great picture!

FROM WORKFORCE TRAINING TO CREDENTIAL

A Powerful PCC Model: Stack training instead of making adults start over



PCC example: Medical Assisting

Workforce/Continuing Education certification courses can feed directly into the Medical Assisting degree through CPL—so students do not repeat learning they have already mastered.

What changes when we design CPL around the adult learner?

TRADITIONAL MINDSET

- Student asks: “Do I have to take this class?”
- College starts with the catalog.
- Experience is something the student must explain.
- Credit is discovered late—after enrollment.



CPL / ADULT-LEARNER MINDSET

- Advisor asks: “What have you already learned?”
- College starts with the student’s goal.
- Experience becomes evidence to evaluate.
- CPL is built into pathway planning early.

CPL is generous to the learner—but rigorous about learning

MASTERY

Credit follows demonstrated college-level learning—not time on the job alone.

EVIDENCE

Credentials, transcripts, training records, exams, portfolios, or other approved evidence document the learning.

ALIGNMENT

The learning must match course outcomes and apply to the student's declared credential.

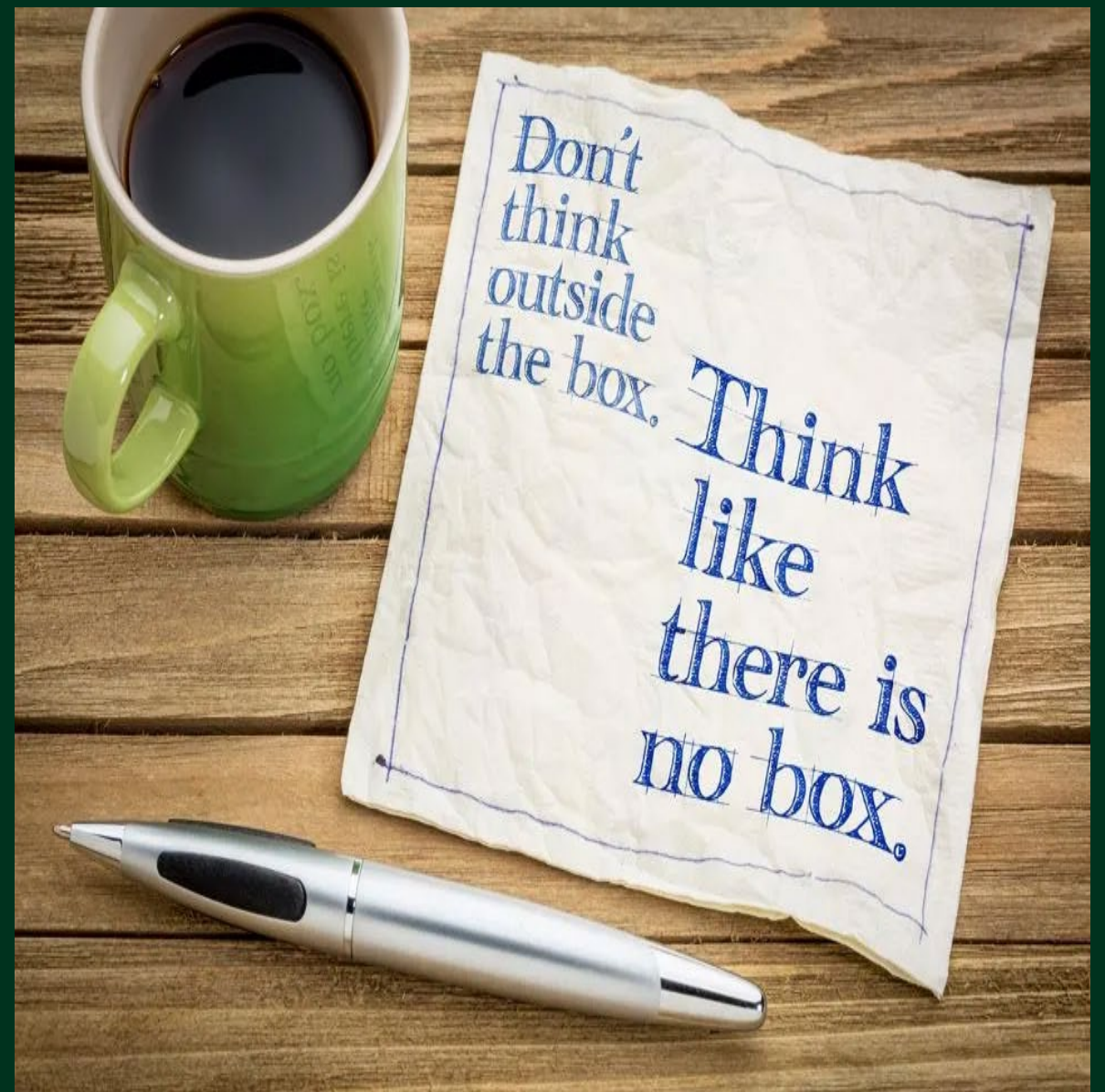
CONSISTENCY

Clear, repeatable processes protect students, faculty, programs, and the institution.

CPL is not a waiver. It is an assessment-based recognition of learning.

THINK OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM: Your Students Do!

Learning happens in a classroom, and also in a workplace. It happens in a lecture hall, and also in an office building, in a fire station, or at a factory. It happens in a study group, and also on a military base, in a hospital, or even in a living room.



A simple question can change the pathway.

“What have you already learned?”

Build CPL into advising—not as an afterthought.

Ask about licenses, certifications, CE, military training, and work-based learning.

Make the evidence/documentation requirements clear.

Celebrate prior learning without lowering the standard.

For adult learners, recognizing prior learning can be the difference between “someday” and “I can finish.”

QUESTIONS



Sources & PCC resources

North Carolina Community College System

Credit for Prior Learning • State Board policy • 2026 CPL Awareness Week resources

<https://www.ncccommunitycolleges.edu/credit-for-prior-learning/>

Piedmont Community College

Credit for Prior Learning • current equivalencies and FAQs

<https://piedmontcc.edu/prior-learning/>

Piedmont Community College

Medical Assisting • workforce/continuing education → CPL pathway

<https://piedmontcc.edu/program/medical-assisting/>

Piedmont Community College

CPL Policy 6.10.1

https://www.piedmontcc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/6.10.1-Credit-for-Prior-Learning__EC_1.29.2024.pdf

Belk Center / NC State

Adult Learner Guidebook and adult learner research

<https://belk-center.ced.ncsu.edu/adult-learner-guidebook/>

Governor of North Carolina

Proclamation: Credit for Prior Learning Awareness Week, Sept. 21–25, 2026

<https://governor.nc.gov/governor-stein-proclaims-credit-prior-learning-awareness-week>

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