Northern Essex Community College

Credit for Life Learning (CLL) - Prior Learning Assessment Process

(based on NECC Academic Policies & Procedures)

Academic Residency Requirements

A minimum of 24 credits of course work for an associate degree program, and 12 credits of course work for a certificate program, are required in order to fulfill residency requirements. CLEP and CLL credit cannot be used to fulfill residency credit. In addition, students must be currently enrolled and matriculated at the time they are fulfilling their residency requirements.

(Excerpt from the NECC Academic Policies & Procedures)

Credits earned through the Credit for Life Learning process may be applied toward graduation. These credits are treated as transfer credits into Northern Essex Community College and follow similar guidelines. Since Credit for Life Learning credits are treated as transfer credits, they cannot be applied toward the stated minimum credit requirements. There is no guarantee that credits earned through Credit for Life Learning will transfer to another institution. Students planning to continue their studies toward a Baccalaureate Degree should communicate with that institution concerning Credit for Life Learning requirements.

Candidates for Credit for Life Learning opportunities

- o Must have matriculated into a program of study.
- o Should understand that the awarding of credit is based on their knowledge, not simply on their experience.
- o Must be able to demonstrate, in a verifiable manner, that they have acquired the same level of academic knowledge that would be obtained by taking the NECC course.

There are six ways to earn credit for life experience:

- o CLEP/DSST Exams
- o Challenge Examinations
- o Credential Evaluations
- o Portfolio Review
- o Military Evaluations
- o Language Proficiency Testing

Grading System

Letter grades are used at the college per the table listed below, and each grade has a numeric range and associated Quality Point Value. The Quality Point Value is based on a 0.00 to 4.0 range, with an "A" grade having the highest value of 4.0. Grades are used to represent the quality of work done in a course and knowledge earned, as based on the individual instructor's standards and course objectives.

The Quality Point Value is used to determine the numeric average of semester course work or of cumulative courses and grades to date. Such a computation is known as the Quality Point Average (QPA) of the grades earned to date. The Quality Point Values of a grade in combination with a credits attempted scale, are used to establish the college's Standards of Academic Progress. The grades presently in use by the college are:

Grade	QP Value	Numeric Range/Comment
A	4.00	93-100
A-	3.70	90-92
B+	3.30	87-89
B	3.00	83-86
B-	2.70	80-82
C+	2.30	77-79
C	2.00	73-76
C-	1.70	70-72
D+	1.30	67-69
D	1.00	60-66
F	0.00	59 or less; failure; no credit earned
W	0.00	Withdrawal from course by student within withdrawal period
NW	0.00	Non-participation withdrawal grade assigned by instructor within withdrawal period

Grade	QP Value	Numeric Range/Comment
P	0.00	Pass; credit earned
I	0.00	Incomplete, in non-punitive period
AU	0.00	Audit; no credits earned

To determine the Quality Point Average (QPA) of courses completed and grades earned, divide attempted credits into the total quality points earned: 12 credits divided into 24.00 = a QPA of 2.0. In this example, the student has a QPA of 2.0, or in other words an overall "C" average. The QPA is also cumulative. Each semester a cumulative QPA is computed by dividing the total number of credits attempted in all semesters at the college into the total number of quality points earned in all semesters at the college. Attempted credit hours include credit hours with a letter grade of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, F.

Grades of P, I, W, NW, and AU are not included in the attempted credit hours. When a course is repeated the higher of the two grades will be computed in the QPA; only the credit hours for the higher grade will be included in the cumulative total of attempted hours. The transcript will record each time the course has been taken. *(Refer to Repeating a Course for further details.)*