

## Commission for Adult Learners

### Incentive Grant Pilot Project

**Introduction:** It has been the goal for the Commission for Adult Learners to increase access to the University for adult students. One of the attractors can be Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) including both Credit by Exam and Portfolio Assessment. These two features have long been on the books, as it were, at Penn State but highly underutilized. The goal for this pilot project is to have the campuses of the Eastern Alliance (Hazleton, Schuylkill, Berks, Wilkes-Barre, and Worthington-Scranton) work collaboratively to assess, evaluate, and implement PLA where appropriate within the BsB and IST degrees offered in a non-traditional fashion focused on adult students.

**Implementation:** In order to achieve the goal, there will be a series of 5 meetings scheduled to discuss, charge, reflect, and deliver courses that would be appropriate for PLA. The meetings would be as follows:

1. Discussion and Charge meeting
  - Participants include the Chancellors, DAAs/Associate Dean, Dr. Pat Shope, Adult Enrollment Coordinators, Advising Coordinators, Program Coordinators for both BsB and IST from all campuses.
  - Goal of the meeting would be to discuss the history of PLA at Penn State, what we know, and future directions relative to the two degrees currently offered by the Alliance.
  - The charge would be given to both the BsB and IST groups, given our discussion, to look at the curriculum and decide which courses and perhaps which campuses were interested in credit by examination for their programs at a future meeting. Faculty members on individual campuses should meet as a group with their respective DAAs/ Associate Deans to discuss the matter.
2. BsB Meeting
  - Faculty members from BsB would come together to discuss credit by examination from their campus perspective along with the respective DAAs/Associate Deans, and Adult Enrollment Coordinators and/or Advising Coordinators (for additional input)dependent on the preference of the individual campus.
  - Volunteers from the group would prepare to write the exams (3 for each course chosen) for individual courses with oversight from the DAAs/Associate Deans. Exam questions would be linked to the learning objectives for the course. Copies of the University official objectives will be requested from the University

Faculty Senate.(Payment for writing exams to come from the World Campus who would also use the exams)

- The questions from the three exams would be placed in a database so that randomized exams could be generated. Faculty would indicate categories of questions related to the learning objectives and indicate how many questions per category to choose.

### 3. IST Meeting

- Faculty members from IST would come together to discuss credit by examination from their campus perspective along with the respective DAAs/Associate Deans, and Adult Enrollment Coordinators and/or Advising Coordinators (for additional input)dependent on the preference of the individual campus.
- Volunteers from the group would prepare to write the exams (3 for each course chosen) for individual courses with oversight from the DAAs/Associate Deans. Exam questions would be linked to the learning objectives for the course. Copies of the University official objectives will be requested from the University Faculty Senate. (Payment for writing exams to come from the World Campus who would also use the exams)
- The questions from the three exams would be placed in a database so that randomized exams could be generated. Faculty would indicate categories of questions related to the learning objectives and indicate how many questions per category to choose.

### 4. Writing

- Faculty members would write the exams over an agreed amount of time as approved by their DAA/Associate Dean.

### 5. Sharing

- Faculties from each discipline would come back together to review draft exams with their colleagues and edit as necessary.
- All campuses of the Alliance would be notified of the availability of the exams for courses chosen and a master list created. The master list would be shared through program coordinators throughout the Commonwealth for consideration. Exams would be also forwarded to Karen Pollack at the World Campus.
- The exam database would be held and managed by the University PLA specialist.

6. Exams would then be piloted and adjusted as necessary as students request and take the exams. The entire process would follow all University guidelines and policies regarding Credit by Examination.

**Budget:**

Charge Meeting – snacks and lunch (for 40+ individuals)	\$1000
BsB meetings (2)- snacks and lunch (25 people) (@ \$650)	\$1300
IST meetings (2)- snacks and lunch (25 people) (@ \$650)	\$1300
Administrative Support (6 campuses @ \$200)	\$1200
TOTAL	\$4800

**2014 Update provided by Dr. Pat Shope:**

Credit by Exam Pilot

Under the direction of Veronica Godshalk the exams for the BSBIC ( MIS204, BA243, and MGMNT 301) were created and have been placed in Angel. A proctoring process was created for world campus students. Students at all other campuses will take the exams in person. As of August 2014 no one has used the exams. In consultation with Penny Carlson we are considering Fall 2014 to be a soft launch by notifying the DAA's at the respective campuses that the exams are available. Once the exams are used and any issues identified and worked through, then a press release type of communication will be created and distributed.

There are no additional expenditures for this project.