



# One Student's Experience with Credit for Prior Learning:

Using CLEP & Credit-by-Exam to Complete her  
Organizational Leadership Degree

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# Penn State Continuing Education at University Park

- Degree Programs
  - Bachelor degrees in Organizational Leadership, and Rehabilitation & Human Services
  - Associate degrees in Business Administration, Human Development & Family Services, Information Sciences & Technology, and Letters' Arts & Sciences
  - Master's degrees in Adult Education and Instructional Systems (referral only)
- Certificates
  - 15+ undergraduate and post-baccalaureate
- Non Credit / Other Programs
  - Professional Development, Go 60 Program, Free College Prep Workshops
- Student Services Team
  - Advising Programs Coordinator, Academic Adviser, Career Counselor, Recruiter, and Financial Aid Adviser
- CEUP Website
  - <http://ceup.psu.edu/>

# Credit by Portfolio Assessment (42-97)

- **LIMITATIONS**

- Credit is granted for college-level learning obtained during work or other experience, not for the experience itself;
- Learning must be documented and must represent college-level achievement.

- **STUDENT ACTION**

- Credit-by-portfolio registration form used to petition the academic unit.
- Faculty assess the portfolio and determine whether credit is to be awarded.
- A fee is assessed to recover the costs of providing the service.

- **IMPACT ON A STUDENT'S PENN STATE RECORD**

- Admissions office updates student's academic record.
- Credits will be designated on the transcript as "Credits Awarded by Portfolio Assessment."

# Credit by Examination (42-50)

- **LIMITATIONS**

- Credits may be earned through successful completion of comprehensive examinations made available by the Penn State academic units that offer particular courses (may not be possible for some courses);
- May not be used to earn credit for a course previously completed with a quality letter grade (including courses that were failed);
- Grades of "C" or above must be attained to receive credit.

- **STUDENT ACTION**

- Obtain a Credit-by-Examination Application Form from your college dean, and follow the directions listed on the back of the form.
- A \$30.00 assessment is made per credit.

- **IMPACT ON A STUDENT'S PENN STATE RECORD**

- Credit by Examination does not result in a quality grade (A, A-, etc.) and is not included in the calculation of the student's grade point average.
- Any credits earned in this manner will appear on the student's transcript with the notation CRX and without a reported grade

# Credit by Validation (42-81)

- **LIMITATIONS**

- Students who have earned a grade of C (2.00) or better in a course at an institution outside of the United States or at an institution that is not regionally accredited (but is licensed to offer associate or higher degrees) may seek credit by validation;
- Credit is validated by the Penn State department in which an equivalent course is taught.

- **STUDENT ACTION**

- Undergraduate Admission Office determines the credits to be validated on the Credit by Validation form. This form and supporting documentation are forwarded to the representative of the department.
- Department representative then conducts a review, the form and extent of which the department representative determines, and reports the results of the review to the Undergraduate Admissions Office.

- **IMPACT ON A STUDENT'S PENN STATE RECORD**

- The Undergraduate Admissions Office then records the appropriate entries on the candidate's record.
- Credits are transferred, but grade points are not

Source: <http://www.psu.edu/ufs/policies/42-00.html#42-81>

# College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)

- **LIMITATIONS**

- Credit must be useful in a student's program of study;
- Results must be equivalent to the American Council on Education (ACE) recommended scores.

- **STUDENT ACTION**

- Contact Outreach Testing Center at 800-252-3592.
- Complete a Registration Form and pay fee: \$92 for exam and administrative fee (will increase to \$97 after July 1, 2010).
- No cost to active duty U.S. military and veterans (with proper ID).

- **IMPACT ON A STUDENT'S PENN STATE RECORD**

- Does not result in a quality grade (A, A-, etc.) or affect GPA.
- On the student's transcript, the grade noted as CRX.

Source: <http://admissions.psu.edu/academics/credit/clep/>

Source: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html>

# Barb Peragine's Story

- Many paths to degree completion
  - Transfer credits
  - Credit by portfolio assessment (GN Lab req)
  - College-Level Examination Program
- Barriers overcome
  - Change in employment status, and loss of staff exemption (tuition discount)
  - Financial aid
  - Setting “intent to grad” when not enrolled
  - Credits earned on official transcript

# Barb's CLEP Study Resources

- <http://www.freeuniv.com/>
- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html>
- <http://www.pinkmonkey.com/studyguides/studyguidesmain.asp>
- <http://www.sparknotes.com/sparknotes/>

## Additional resources:

- Pattee and Paterno library for general topic text books
- Friends who had access to High School text books
- CLEP Study guides provided by Outreach Offices (CEUP and World Campus), free to borrow for Penn State adult learners
- Reviewing CLEP Study Guides on <http://www.amazon.com/> and <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>





**Thank You Very Much!**

**Any Questions?**

# Resources

- Continuing Education at University Park. (2010). *Programs for adult learners*. Retrieved May 5, 2010, from <http://ceup.psu.edu/programs-adult-learners>
- Penn State Outreach. (2010). *Credit for prior learning experiences and education*. Retrieved May 5, 2010, from <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/adult-learners/134.htm>
- Penn State University. (2010). *College Board exams help Penn State adult learners earn degrees faster*. Retrieved May 5, 2010, from <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/adult-learners/134.htm>
- Penn State University Faculty Senate. (2010). *Advising: Policy 32-00*. Retrieved May 5, 2010, from <http://senate.psu.edu/policies/>
- Penn State University Faculty Senate. (2010). *Responsibilities of the Advisers and Advisees: Policy 32-30*. Retrieved May 5, 2010, from <http://senate.psu.edu/policies/>

## Contact Information

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