

Assessment for Prior Learning Phase II of Research Assignment

Data collected from: Clark, Marylhurst University, Sinclair, Clackamas, Aurora, Columbus State, Edmonds, York County, Bristol, Chemeketa, Thomas Edison, and Harford Community College.

If portfolios are being used, how are they formatted?

- **Thomas Edison:** On an individual basis, based on the course you are trying to receive credit for. A “mentor” for the course oversees the portfolio process and awards credit if merited.
- **Chemeketa:** Extensive use, format is title page, table of contents, forms relevant to the employment process, required supporting documentation (job description, awards, training sessions, detailed essays). **Students must take a three credit class offered both on-line and on-site.**
- **Bristol:** Has portfolios as an option—but they are not used much. Format is Resume, Statement of Autobiography/Educational Goals, Statement of how the credit for prior learning relates to student’s degree plan (including courses student is requesting credit for PL), Annotated Bibliography/Resources, Documentation (certificates, supervisor’s statements or recommendations, tangible educational and life experiences products, licenses), Letter of transmittal by student to individual assessing the portfolio.
- **Clackamas:** Portfolios are based on a career chronology or historiography format. Individual’s claim expertise, verify knowledge, skills and abilities that demonstrate their expertise—portfolio is then validated by experts and aligned with current course offerings.
- **York:** Students prepare them on their own, but use **a directed process via WebCT.**
- **Aurora:** Departments accepting the submission decide on the format, evaluation and credit given.
- **Harford:** Departments evaluating and granting credit decide on the format.
- **Sinclair: Students must take class to do a portfolio. Quarter long class 1 night a week for 3 credit hours.** Portfolio consists of a chronological record of experiences since high school, life history (adult learning, adult life span development), 1 page of goals, then, selection of courses they wish to receive PL credit for—and a table that outlines the competencies they have gained through PL in relationship to the objectives of the courses they have selected. Chair of Faculty review the portfolio and assign grades.
- **Marylhurst: Workshops are available to assist students with portfolios.** They have portfolios—need more information.
- **Clark State: Students are required to take a class—Prior Learning Portfolio Development.** Portfolios are written for each course for which the student is seeking credit. Portfolios have four major parts (need to find out what they are) and are assessed by the lead faculty instructor of the course.

Is any prior learning credit given for non-credit classes or certifications?

College	YES	NO
Thomas Edison	Licenses, certifications, professional development classes	
Chemeketa	Subject specific and will be awarded credit based on the profession reviewing the portfolio	
Bristol	Some Certifications	No clear policy for stand alone non-credit.
Clackamas	Credit for expertise not necessarily non-credit classes. If expertise aligns with course outcomes, credit can be awarded	
York County		Generally no.
Edmonds	Limited to certain certifications (early childhood)	
Columbus	Limited to certain certifications in early childhood and nursing	
Aurora	Certifications	
Harford	Done through the portfolio system	
Sinclair	Done through the portfolio system	
Marylhurst	Done through the portfolio system	
Clark State	Done through the portfolio system	

What have the colleges found to be the pros and cons of their methods of assessing prior learning—particularly portfolios?

College	PROS	CONS
Thomas Edison	Potential topics are virtually limitless	But, must have someone who can act as the mentor
Chemeketa	Are reviewed by subject matter experts	
Bristol	Preferred method for PL is by credential evaluation	Portfolios have been cumbersome in the past, but they now have a

		simple model they are using.
Clackamas	Portfolios are the way to go, they take the bias out and spread the responsibility for granting credit to multiple stakeholders	No issues with portfolios because they are focused on what the applicant wants to achieve.
York County	Challenge exams work best.	Students find the portfolios to be labor intensive.
Edmonds	Challenge tests work best, followed by interviews, taking final exam and demonstrations.	
Columbus	n/a	n/a
Aurora	Everything works fine, except that students call and get upset if the credits don't transfer.	
Harford	All done by faculty—so not sure of any issues.	
Sinclair	Comprehensive mechanism to provide students credit	Not enough education and marketing internally to promote the program.
Marylhurst	From a deep learning perspective, the portfolio experience allows for time to reflect and critical examination of one's life experiences. Transformational learning	Students need to be self-directed—often require extra coaching. Administratively heavy process in trying to monitor evaluators and maintain academic integrity.
Clark State	Portfolios work well for professional technical courses—but not sure about general education courses.	Not reaching a large number of students who are qualified to take advantage of the program. Need faculty-buy-in to the program.

Maximum number of credits allowed under the PL program?

College	Credits
Thomas Edison	No mention of maximum
Chemeketa	24 Credit hours
Bristol	Up to 15 credits of degree program requirements
Clackamas	24 Credit hours
York County	65% of credit hours
Edmonds	25% of credits for degrees or certificates
Columbus	Unclear
Aurora	25% of credits for certificate programs, 50% of credits for degree programs
Harford	30 non-traditional credits—15 can be from portfolio
Sinclair	Unclear
Marylhurst	30 units of credit
Clark State	Minimum of 30 credits must be taken from Clark State

How many students go through the program?

College	# of Students
Thomas Edison	
Chemeketa	15-20 per year
Bristol	174 inquiries, 54 credit by examination, 66 by credential 6 Portfolios
Clackamas	
York County	Many attempts at portfolios by only 2 have completed
Edmonds	20-30 per year
Columbus	
Aurora	
Harford	
Sinclair	
Marylhurst	
Clark State	13 last year (small school)

Are there any non-credit to credit issues?

College	Issues
Thomas Edison	College reserves the right to refuse to grant credit for any PLA that does meet the standards.
Chemeketa	No formal policy
Bristol	Unclear
Clackamas	No issues
York County	None-minimally used
Edmonds	NA
Columbus	
Aurora	Aurora doesn't have any non-credit classes—so they don't deal with this.
Harford	Non-credit would be part of portfolio
Sinclair	Non-credit would be part of portfolio
Marylhurst	Part of portfolio
Clark State	Part of portfolio

Is the Credit transcribed and/or transferable?

College	Transcribed	Transferable
Thomas Edison	Yes	Yes
Chemeketa	Yes	Depends on other institution
Bristol	Yes	Unclear how transferable
Clackamas	Yes	Articulated as part of agreements, but not transferred
York County		No
Edmonds		Depends on other institution
Columbus		
Aurora		Depends on other institution
Harford		Depends on other institution
Sinclair	Yes	Yes
Marylhurst	Yes	Depends on other institution
Clark State		