

“Are you experienced?”



Translating Experiential Learning into Credit for Healthcare Students

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Adult Learning: A National Priority

- Great and growing need for the nation's workforce to acquire more postsecondary credentials to compete
- Need to help more adult gain the skills and credentials they need to access high-demand jobs in growth industries

What about existing skills?

- Many of the people you are training are not fresh out of high school.
- What have they been doing?
 - Working in various jobs
 - Serving in the military
 - Serving their communities
 - Pursuing personal interests

Are you asking your trainees to
sit in classes covering material
that they already know?

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Can Help

What is PLA?

The evaluation for college credit of the knowledge and skills one gains from:

employment
military service
non-credit instruction/training
travel
hobbies
civic activities
volunteer service

PLA Methods

- Standardized exams
 - Advanced Placement (AP)
 - College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
 - Excelsior College Exams
 - DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST)
- Challenge exams
- Individual student portfolios
- Evaluation of non-college training (e.g. corporate or military)
- Evaluation of non-credit instruction

Standards to Ensure Quality

The 10 CAEL Standards for
Assessing Learning ensure quality

#1: Credit or its equivalent should
be awarded only for learning, and
not for experience.

Benefits of PLA

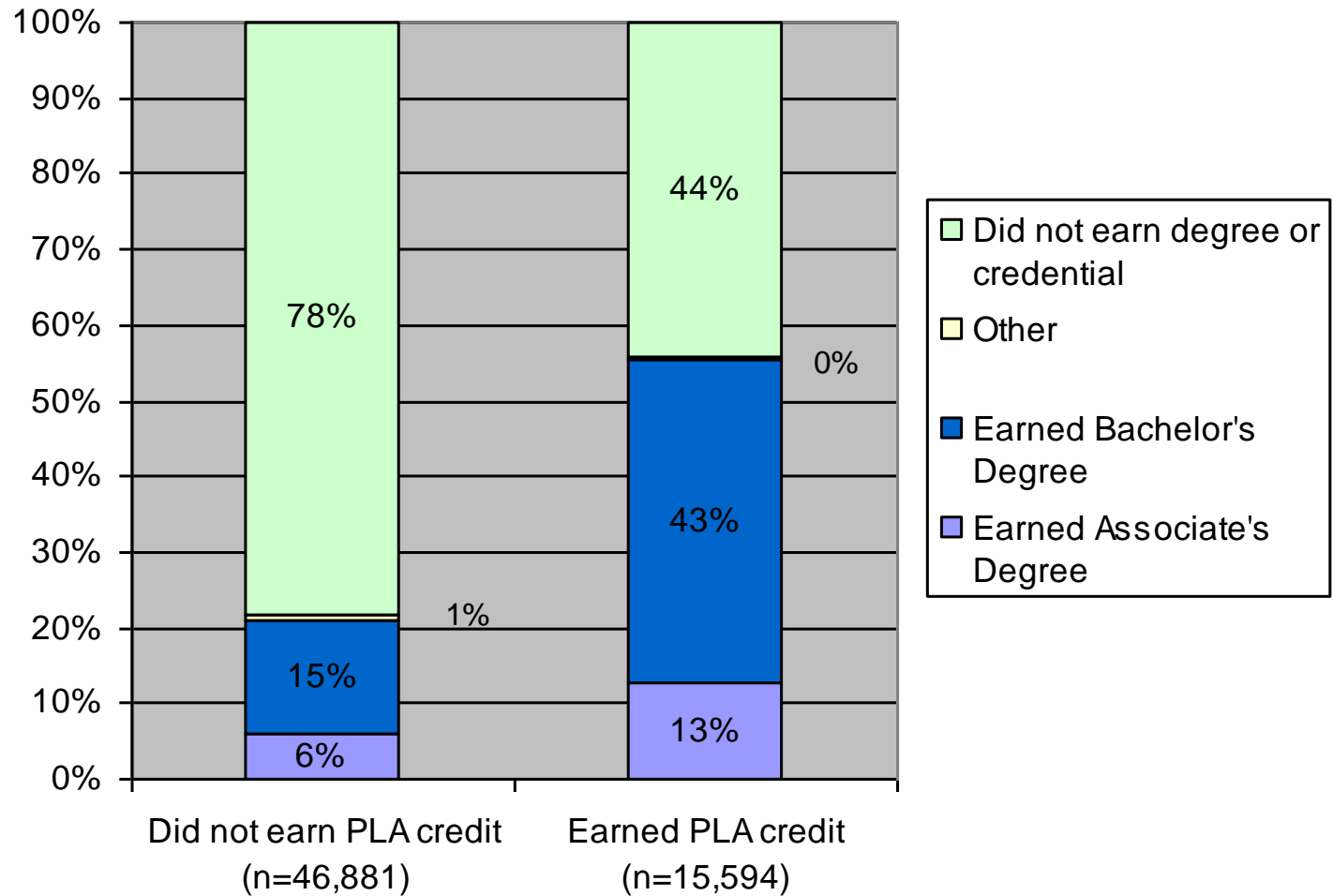
- Saves time
- Saves money/tuition
- Motivates students to persist and complete educational goals

How do we know?

CAEL Study of PLA and Student Outcomes

- 48-institution study of PLA and academic outcomes (funded by Lumina Foundation for Education)
- 62,475 total adult students in our sample (adult = age 25 or older)
- Increased Graduation Rates, Greater Persistence, and Shorter Time to Degree

Graduation Rates of PLA Students



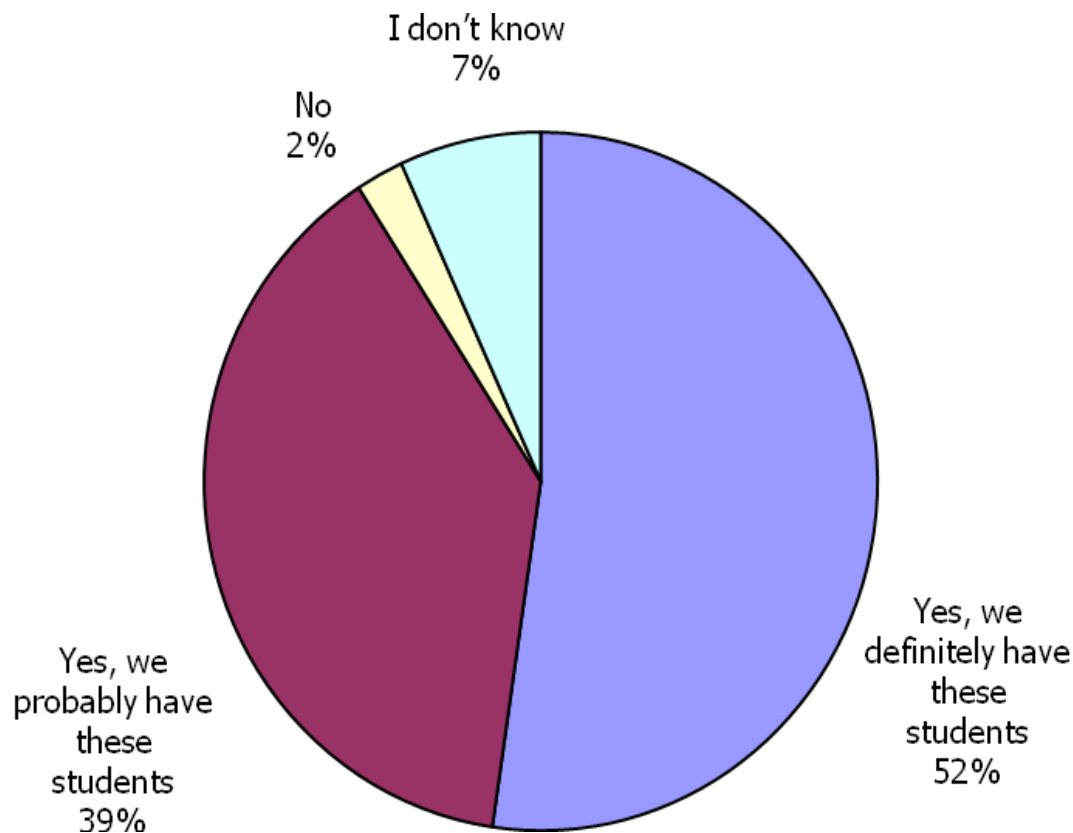
Community Colleges Care About PLA

Spring 2010 CAEL study of community colleges shows a need for PLA.

88 respondents from two-year institutions

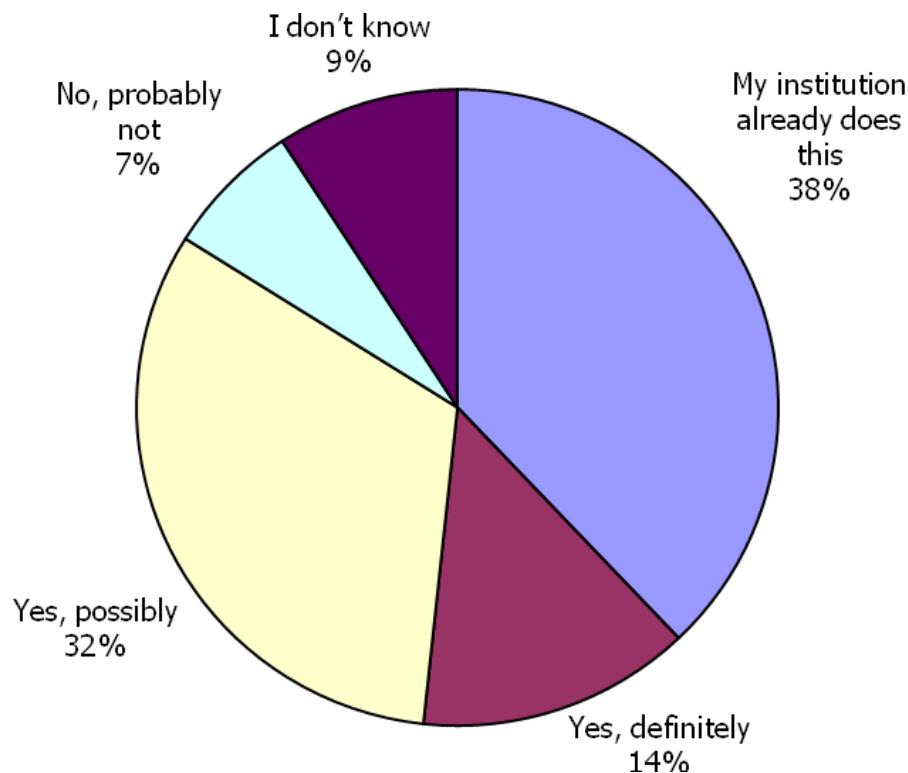
Community College PLA Survey

▷ Sample Question: Do you have younger adults who come to your institution with some technical training that they have learned on the job?



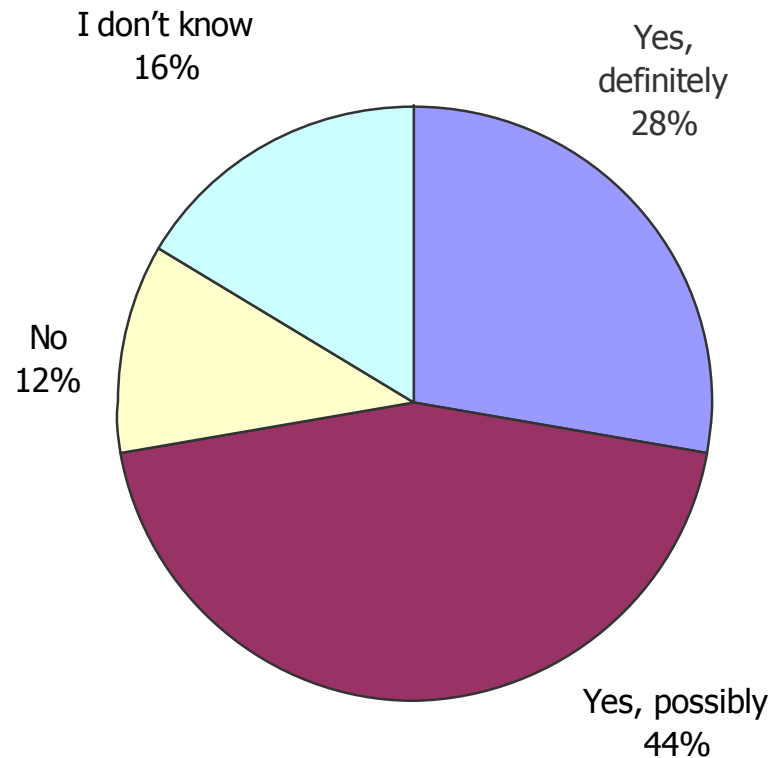
Community College PLA Survey

Sample question: If you could evaluate this prior learning from technical training and tie it to courses, could there be greater use of PLA at your institution?



Community College PLA Survey

Sample question: Do you think your institution will see increased demand for PLA options in the future?



Scaling Up the Use of PLA

CAEL Virtual PLA Center

- Developed with a planning grant from Lumina Foundation for Education
- ACE and College Board partnering on project
- CAEL will draw upon faculty experts nationwide for teaching portfolio development course and reviewing adult students' portfolios

CAEL's PLA Center

Learning Counts

College Credit for What You Already
Know

CAEL's PLA Center

▷ The Center will:

- Use on-line platform
- Help students earn all forms of PLA credit
- Offer basic on-line advising
- Offer an on-line PLA course
- Assign portfolios to faculty evaluators, who have been trained by CAEL

CAEL's PLA Center

- ▷ Credit recommendations from the Center's faculty experts will be sent on ACE transcript to colleges, as ACE already does today with military and corporate training

Whom Will It Serve?

- ▷ Individuals **already enrolled** in community colleges or four-year institutions
 - Provide support for postsecondary institutions that have no existing PLA programs
 - Augment existing PLA programs at some postsecondary institutions



Healthcare Example 1

Carlow University

- Health Sciences degree program
- RN-MSN Nursing Fast Track

Healthcare Example 2

Delaware County Community College

- LPN to RN program

Healthcare Example 3

Excelsior College School of Nursing

- Associate Degree in Nursing

Contact us

- ▷ If I can help, please email me
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