



Welcome to Opportunity

Credit for Prior Learning

Turn your real-world skills into college credits. Save time, reduce costs, and accelerate your path to a degree. Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) is college credit awarded for validated college-level skills and knowledge gained outside of a college classroom. Whether from military service, work experience, or exams, CPL at Saddleback validates what you already know — empowering working adults, veterans, and lifelong learners to achieve more, faster.

What is Credit for Prior Learning?

Credit for Prior Learning enables individuals to earn college credits for skills and knowledge acquired through real-world experiences, such as professional work, military training, or standardized testing. These credits are recorded on an official Saddleback College transcript, helping you bypass courses you already know and focus on new learning. CPL is a flexible option designed to recognize your prior achievements and integrate them into your academic journey at Saddleback College.

Standardized Exams provide an opportunity to earn credits based on high scores from recognized tests like AP, IB, CLEP, or DLPT, allowing you to bypass introductory classes and fast track your degree progress.

Military Service recognizes the training and experiences gained through military duty, converting them into college credits to advance your civilian education seamlessly.

Industry-Recognized Credentials turn professional certifications into credits that align with your career path, validating your expertise in specific fields.

Portfolio Review allows you to showcase your work and hands-on expertise through a submitted portfolio, which is evaluated for college-level credit.

Credit by Examination lets you test out of courses by demonstrating mastery of the material, saving time on what you already know.

Benefits of Credit for Prior Learning

- **Cost Savings** – Cut costs by up to 60%, with potential tuition savings of \$26,000 to \$33,000.
- **Time Savings** – Shorten your degree timeline by 6 to 14 months.
- **Completion Boost** – Adult learners who receive CPL graduate at almost TWICE the rate of those who receive no CPL (49% vs 27%).
- **Meeting Student Demand** – 84% of working adults say CPL options influence where they enroll.
- **Motivational Boost** – Gain recognition for your experiences, making education more relevant and achievable.

CPL isn't just about earning credits—it's a smart strategy to make education work for you. By recognizing prior learning, you can shorten your time to graduation, keep more money in your pocket, and gain a motivational boost from seeing your experiences count.

Your Next Steps

- Explore the CPL options on our [website](#).
- Talk with a Saddleback College counselor about your eligibility and prior experiences. To schedule an appointment, call us or fill out the contact form on our [website](#).

Credit for Prior Learning is available to working adults, veterans, and lifelong learners at Saddleback College. Multiple pathways can lead to faster completion of an Associate's Degree, Certificate of Achievement, or transfer to a four-year institution.



Contact Us

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