PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Career Services
1.800.532.8641 Extension 7534
marcia.foss@vcsu.edu

COST
The cost for the ASC 180 PLA course is computed at the same rate as any other class at VCSU. The following are the per semester credit hour costs for 2010-2011:

ASC 180 Prior Learning Assessment for Academic Credit
(includes University and technology/laptop fees)

- ND resident $216.20
- MN resident $225.52
- Resident of MT, SD, MB, SK, MSEP-KS, MI, MO, NE, WI $253.14
- Resident of WUE-AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY $290.08
- Out-of-state/International $462.94

Portfolio Evaluation
VCSU will charge 50% of the resident tuition rate per credit for each PLA credit. $50.00/credit hour will be applied toward portfolio evaluation and the remaining dollar amount will cover the transcription of the credits.

QUOTES
“The PLA program afforded me the opportunity to convert prior job experience and training into college credit, thereby expediting my degree completion.”

Sgt. Aaron Berg
2008 VCSU Graduate/Career & Technical Education
NDSCS Police Dept.
Wahpeton, ND

“The Prior Learning Assessment program at VCSU was an excellent tool for me to qualify for university credit for my work and educational experiences. It enabled me to only take classes that were necessary for my personal and career needs.”

Mark Watne
2009 VCSU Graduate/University Studies
Agricultural Strategist
North Dakota Farmers Union

HOW TO BEGIN?
Apply for admission to Valley City State University by completing an application. This may be done online at: www.vcsu.edu/enrollmentservices or by calling 1.800.532.8641, ext. 7101 to have a paper application mailed to you.

The following requirements will also need to be submitted for admission to VCSU.
- $35 non-refundable application fee
- High School transcript or GED diploma
- College transcript(s) that you previously attended another college
- Immunization record - presenting evidence of two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) (exempt if born prior to 1957)

Upon admittance to Valley City State University, enroll in one-credit course, ASC 180 Prior Learning Assessment for Academic Credit. The class is offered throughout the year by arrangement.

“Earning credits through the PLA process is simple:
- Enroll in ASC 180 Prior Learning Assessment for Academic Credit
- Work with the PLA Coordinator
- Select the courses you’d like to PLA
- Compare your life & work experience with specific course objectives.

If experience matches with objectives, complete the requisite forms and provide supporting documentation that explains to the professor why it is not necessary for you to take the course. Before I knew it, I was graduating three semesters early, thanks to the 39 credits I was able to earn through the PLA process. Besides saving me money, the PLA process helped me put into perspective the many life experiences I have had, thus enabling me to converse more fluently about my skill sets and experiences with potential employers.”

Heather Leas
2010 VCSU Graduate/Professional Communication
Executive Assistant to Superintendent
West Fargo Public Schools
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1.800.532.8641 Extension 7521

CONNECT COLLEGE CREDIT WITH YOUR LIFETIME AND WORK LEARNING
Valley City State University eagerly accepts the opportunity to serve the adult learner. Adults have many learning experiences. Knowledge gained from these non-collegiate activities is evaluated and credit is granted if the learning outcomes are collegiate level and are part of a degree plan.

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT
PLA provides adult students with the opportunity to earn university credit for prior collegiate level knowledge/learning obtained through: independent reading, volunteer services, workshops, conferences, in-service training, work and other activities.

UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT
Prior learning is assembled into a written presentation (which includes supporting documentation) called a portfolio. Portfolios are evaluated by departmental faculty to determine credit awards.

The amount of credit will be related to the kinds and quality of learning outcomes presented and validated.

Credits for prior learning may replace specific courses offered at VCSU. (For example, prior learning credit for the course MGMT 330 Principles of Management could fulfill a course requirement in the composite major of a Business Administration degree.) Your portfolio instructor will help you investigate the possibilities as part of the ASC 180 Prior Learning Assessment for Academic Credit class.

PORTFOLIO PROCESS
The development of the student’s PLA portfolio begins with enrollment in a one credit course, ASC 180 Prior Learning Assessment for Academic Credit. University personnel skilled in the identification and documentation of prior learning assessment will guide students through the portfolio process.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY
Adults who have a high school diploma or its equivalent and have 5 years of experiential work or life learning, and who wish to begin or continue their collegiate education.

NON-TRADITIONAL WAYS TO EARN UNIVERSITY CREDIT
• Military Experience
• CLEP
• Correspondence Study
• Online courses
• Workshops
• Special Topics

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
1-800-532-8641
Marcia Foss ext.
   PLA Coordinator 7534
   Registrar 7295
   Enrollment Services 7101
   Academic Affairs 7202
   Financial Aid 7541