



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

March 21, 2024

## Annual Report on Credit for Prior Learning at USHE Degree-Granting Institutions

The Credit for Prior Learning initiative on the Utah Board of Higher Education's Strategic Plan is intended to streamline degree progression and increase college affordability. This initiative enables students to earn credit toward their degree for learning acquired outside conventional college environments, including advanced academic study in high school, employer training, or military service. It operates under [Utah Code 53B-16-107](#) and [Board Policy R472, \*Credit for Prior Learning\*](#), with detailed guidance provided by the Prior Learning Assessment Quality Standards and Best Practices Handbook.

Policy and state code require USHE institutions to provide an annual report on the types of prior learning assessments they provide and the number of credits students have earned through those assessments. The attached issue brief outlines the principles behind the Board's Credit for Prior Learning completion initiative. The attached annual report for AY2023 details the credits earned through prior learning assessments at USHE degree-granting institutions.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, a total of 34,568 students across the eight USHE degree-granting institutions earned 232,943 college credits through prior learning assessments, resulting in an approximate savings of \$56,279,227 in tuition and fees. Compared to the preceding academic year, AY2023 reflects an increase of 2,979 students and 4,959 awarded credits. Most credit for prior learning earned in AY23 stemmed from assessments conducted through traditional national standardized exams such as AP, CLEP, and IB. Additionally, USHE allocated 52,016 credits to 4,334 students (approximately 13% of the total) for prior learning accomplished through military service, third-party and national certifications, foreign language examinations, portfolio submissions, institutional challenge exams, and coursework completed at technical colleges.

### Commissioner's Recommendation

This is an information item only; no action is required.

### Attachments

Credit for Prior Learning at Degree-Granting Institutions within the Utah System of Higher Education Issue Brief