MUS Prior Learning Assessment

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4/15/2015
Prior Learning Assessment

PLA represents various methods of assessing learning that did not take place in an accredited college.
PLA ↔ Credit for Life Experience

- MSU does not offer credit for “life experience”
- Through PLA, we may award credit for prior learning that demonstrates the learning outcomes of a particular course.
Common Types of PLA

- AP: Advanced Placement
- CLEP: College Level Examination Program
- Challenge Exams
- ACE: American Council on Education (common with veterans)
- Demonstrated Proficiency (e.g., musical performance)
- Portfolio-based Assessments
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Portfolio-Based Assessments

- Must be tied to a specific course
- Based on the course’s learning outcomes
- Assessed by faculty
  - Faculty would be compensated
  - Letter grades preferred, not required
Portfolio-Based Assessments

- Assessed by faculty...
- Not necessarily MSU faculty
  - Other MUS campuses
  - Faculty hired by corporation (not right now)
Portfolio-Based Assessments

- Portfolio Development
  - Time consuming
  - Students get information on requirements

- Portfolio Assessment
  - Can be expensive
  - PLA credits are not eligible for financial aid
After the Assessment

- PLA approvals appear on student’s transcript as courses
  - Marked as PLA
  - With CCN, PLA courses will transfer within MUS
After the Assessment

- PLA approvals appear on student’s transcript as courses.

- NWCCU requires PEL courses to be marked on transcript.

- NWCCU allows no more than 25% of a program’s credits to come from PEL.

PEL: Prior Experiential Learning
Concerns

- MSU cannot control quality of PLA assessment by other MUS campuses
- MSU must accept PLA courses that other MUS campuses declare equivalent to CCN courses
- Assessment could potentially be performed by a corporate entity outside of the MUS
Potential Solutions

- Require PLA courses to be marked/trackable
- Allow campuses to accept or reject PLA credits, at least until MUS has more experience with portfolio assessment
- Restrict portfolio assessment to MUS faculty, at least until MUS has more experience with portfolio assessment