

NISTS 2023

BE A CONNECTOR FOR TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS

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The following presentation was given at the 21st Annual Conference for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students. Please cite responsibly and direct questions to the original presenter(s).

Educational Session

2759 - Beyond Transfer Credit: Credit for Prior Learning Foundations

Credits and Degree Pathways, Leadership and Strategic Planning

Join this session to learn how to support transfer students in gaining recognition for all of the knowledge they bring when enrolling at your institution. This session will outline the framework that our university uses to capture various forms of prior learning in order to enhance student success outcomes. You will learn about the key types of credit for prior learning and how to use them to empower transfer students.

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Beyond Transfer Credit:

Credit for Prior Learning Foundations





Welcome!

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Session Roadmap

- Introduction
- The value of prior learning
- Prior learning at Purdue Global
- Call to action

The bad news...

43% OF CREDITS LOST

The US Government Accountability Office published a 2017 reporting indicating that the average student loses 43% of their credits when transferring between institutions.

The good news...

1.000.000 CREDITS

Each year at Purdue University Global we award our students one million credits for prior learning.

Working Definitions in Brief

- **Prior learning** - all learning that happens outside the home institution (*food for thought: is all prior learning “prior”?*)
- **Transfer credit** - prior learning that is coming from another accredited institution; inherently exists as credit
- **Prior learning assessment (PLA)** - evaluation method used to convert prior learning into credit; learning that requires assessment to convert into credit, excludes transfer credit
- **Credit for prior learning (CPL)** - prior learning that has been assessed and is now available as credit

Prior Learning Creates Value

- College transfer students who have had most or all of their credits transferred are **2.5 times more likely to graduate**¹
- **49% completion rate** for adult students with credit for prior learning (CPL), compared to 27% for those without²
- PG BS-seeking students with transfer credit had **76% Term 2 persistence**, without transfer credit had 52%³

Prior Learning Creates Value

- Adult students with PLA took **17 more semester credits** (25.5 quarter) at their institution than adult students without PLA.²
- Guild Education asserts that even **one credit** for prior learning can offer a psychological advantage resulting in better student outcomes

Prior Learning Creates Value

Why does credit for prior learning make such a difference?

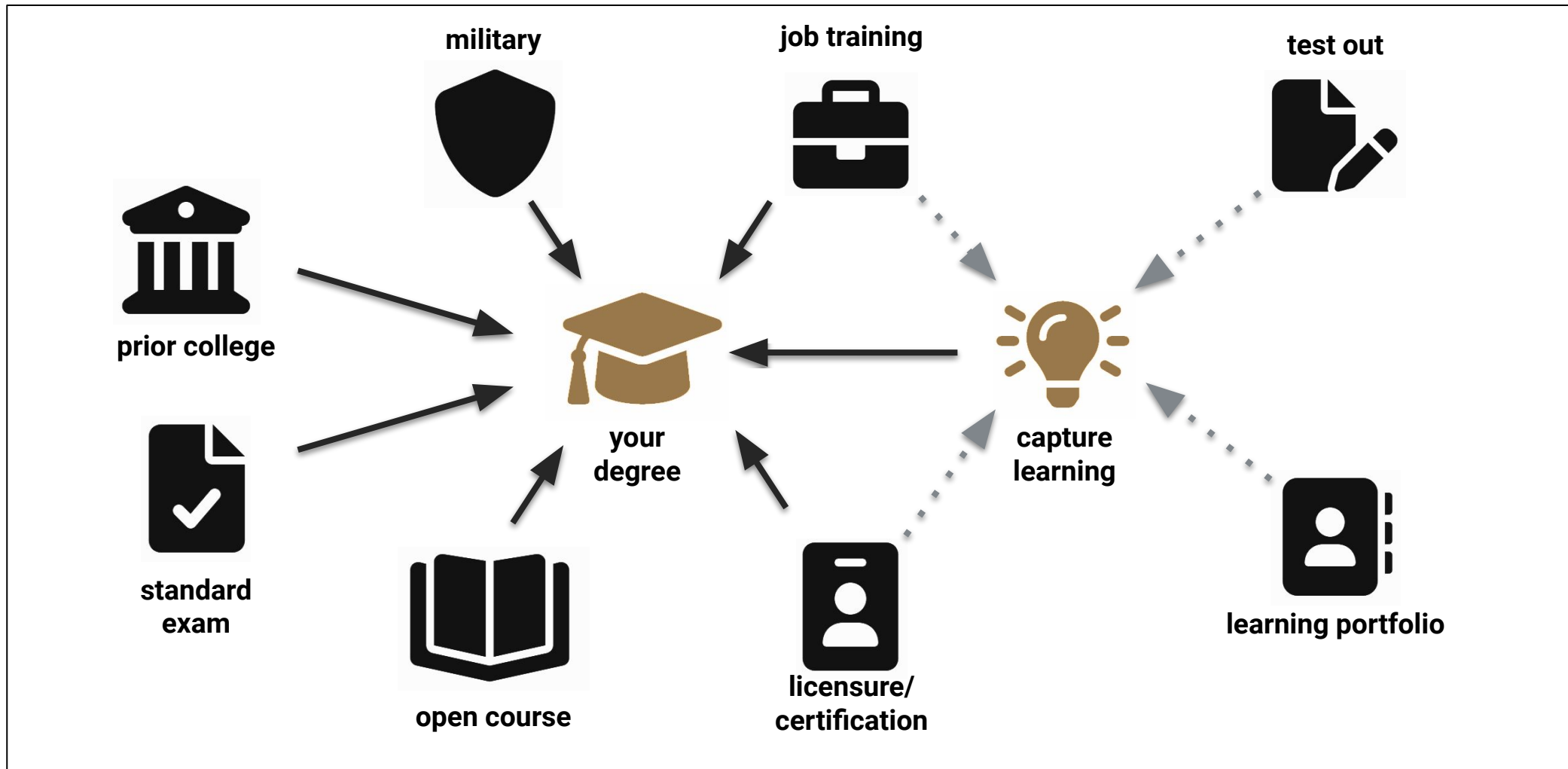
- **Time:** Receipt of CPL moves the finish line closer
- **Money:** Receipt of CPL reduces program cost
- **Motivation:** Receipt of CPL acknowledges/celebrates success
- **Behavior:** Students who have prior learning are better prepared, persist at better rates, and are more likely to graduate

Center for Prior Learning Recognition

Purdue University Global values students' learning within the classroom and beyond, including experiences gained throughout their professional and educational journeys. The University identifies, assesses, and recognizes diverse modes of learning to reduce time to program completion and advance students toward achieving their personal, career, and academic goals.



Solutions Map



Prior Learning at Purdue Global

Optimized Opportunities for Prior Learning

- **Degree plan design:** Our degrees are fundamentally designed to be transfer-receptive and flexible
- **Advanced Start option:** Students with a completed associate's degree get a custom degree plan to accelerate progress
- **Policies:** We allow up to 75% (undergrad) and 50% (grad) of degree credits to be satisfied by transfer and prior learning
- **Practices:** We recognize and utilize prior learning to make a real impact on student progress, not just “free elective” credit

Prior Learning at Purdue Global

Optimizing Prior College

- **Transfer Courses:** We have over 300,000 courses reviewed and stored in our transfer database, growing every day
- **Transfer Pathways:** We develop customized credit pathways demonstrating how a learner may progress from another institution's credential (associate's degree) to a PG credential (bachelor's degree)
- **Articulation Agreements:** We partner with select schools to formalize alignment between institutions and degrees options

Prior Learning at Purdue Global

Optimizing Prior Professional Education

- **Military Learning:** Faculty teams review military courses to align learning outcomes and establish credit opportunities for service members (e.g. *Army 68W Combat Medic*)
- **Industry Certifications:** Faculty teams review industry standard certifications and credentials to establish credit opportunities for credentialed experts (e.g. *CompTIA Security+*)
- **Corporate Training:** Faculty teams review corporate training courses to establish credit opportunities for qualified professionals (e.g. *Walmart Store Manager*)

Call to Action

- **What your institution can do:** Advocate for and support services that will increase student access to credit
- **What transfer centers can do:** Increase opportunities for credit and develop methods to more clearly convey value to current and prospective students and those who support them
- **What you can do:** Raise institutional awareness regarding the breadth of opportunities that may help students achieve their goals. Research, investigate, expand, engage in dialogue, build connections with faculty, staff, deans; convey the value and propose changes.

THANK YOU

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References

1. [Ithaka S+R](#) has identified research that shows “college transfer students who have had most or all of their credits transferred are 2.5 times more likely to graduate compared to those who have had less than half of their credits transferred.”
2. CAEL and WICHE [released](#) research showing a 49% completion rate for adult students with credit for prior learning (CPL), compared to 27% for those without. Additionally, prior learning students took an average of 17.6 more semester credits with their institution as compared to those without CPL.
3. Term 2 persistence for PG BS-seeking students with transfer credit is 76%. Term 2 persistence for PB BS-seeking students without transfer or prior learning is 52%.
4. US GAO released a [report](#) in 2017 showing that students who transferred from 2004 to 2009 lost an average of 43% of their credits when transferring.