

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Workgroup Report to Academic Senate

April 9, 2025

Introduction:

The Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Workgroup at Bakersfield College continues its mission to expand equitable access to academic credit for students with verifiable college-level learning acquired outside traditional academic settings. This includes prior military training, industry certifications, standardized exams, and work experience. The 2024–2025 academic year has been marked by strategic expansion of the MAP platform, refinement of processes, enhanced crosswalks with local partners, and statewide engagement to ensure our institution remains aligned with California's CPL policy developments.

Membership and Structure:

The CPL Workgroup meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Its membership includes a cross-functional team of faculty, counselors, deans, articulation staff, and administrators.

Major Accomplishments:

- **MAP Platform Expansion and Alignment**
 - Significant increase in usage across California:
 - Over 9,000 students, 37,000+ units, 1,200+ courses, and \$25,000+ in savings reported.
 - Integration of MAP as the standard platform across CA community colleges.
 - Launched a public-facing landing page design project, modeling after Palomar College for transparency and ease of use.
- **Website and Course List Modernization**
 - Began modernization of the Bakersfield College CPL webpage to include:
 - An up-to-date list of articulated courses
 - Assessment methods and articulation notes
 - Streamlined visuals and navigation for student access
- **Improved Workflow for CPL Inquiries**
 - Managed 158+ CPL general inquiries through a redesigned triage and case management system.
 - Created a new CPL interest form requiring student ID, major, and relevant experience.
 - Developed a workflow to route inquiries from CPL email to Counseling and then to Faculty Experts for evaluation and final processing.
- **Form Development and Curriculum Integration**
 - Updated the Petition for CPL: Industry Recognized Credentials form to allow for greater flexibility and usability.
 - Sent for Curriculum Committee approval and added additional input fields.
- **Faculty and Staff Training**
 - Department POCs were verified and trained in the MAP system.
 - Plans initiated for in-service training for department chairs and faculty to support CPL articulation, rubric development, and student guidance.
- **Recognition of External Learning through Local Partnerships**
 - Completed articulation for certificates from the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF):

- Up to 18 units of BC credit were awarded for bookkeeping and clerical certificates.
- Additional non-credit certificates recognized and integrated into CPL.
- **Policy Advocacy and Student Equity**
 - Initiated discussions around the removal of barriers such as:
 - 12-unit residency requirements
 - “Good standing” academic requirements
 - 50% traditional course completion minimum
 - Focused on veteran CPL access beyond military transcripts and explored partnership between Counseling and Veteran Services.

Ongoing Projects and Priorities:

- MAP SOP Creation: A subcommittee is forming to develop step-by-step guidance for staff transitions and consistent CPL processing.
- Student Option to Decline Credit: Procedures being developed to allow students agency in declining CPL where strategically appropriate.
- Regional and Statewide Training: Participation in the CPL Summit (November 2024) and regional MAP trainings in January 2025.
- Expanded Articulations: Focus on five targeted disciplines: EMT, Culinary, POST, Fire, Logistics, and Corrections.

Challenges and Considerations:

- Need for standardized messaging and role clarity among Counseling, Veteran Services, and instructional departments.
- Confusion around ACE ID vs. skill-based articulation processes in MAP.
- Ensuring the transcription process is clearly defined and documented with input from A&R and articulation teams.

The 2024–2025 academic year has demonstrated significant momentum toward institutionalizing Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) at Bakersfield College. With increased collaboration, more straightforward workflows, and more substantial alignment with state goals, CPL continues to expand access and remove barriers for adult learners, veterans, and students with non-traditional pathways. The Workgroup remains committed to transparency, equity, and innovation in serving students and will continue to build on these efforts throughout the remainder of the academic year.

Respectfully submitted,
Kailani Henry