

**Resolution to Modify Use of the term Experiential Learning in the 2019-20 Undergraduate Catalog**  
Educational Policy and Student Affairs (EPSA) Committee  
Faculty Senate  
**Approved - May 6, 2019**

**Whereas** the OHIO Board of Trustees approved the introduction of the Career and Experiential Learning fee in January 2018;

**Whereas** Career and Experiential Learning fee is intended to provide “support for certain internship and other experiential education activities, opportunities for employment upon degree attainment, career and leadership development services and programming, employer recruitment, and alumni professional engagement”<sup>1</sup>;

**Whereas** OHIO introduced the Career and Experiential Learning Fee (\$6 per credit hour, capped at 12 credit hours per semester) for undergraduate degrees beginning with the OHIO Guarantee 2018-19;

**Whereas** the OHIO University Undergraduate Catalogue 2018-19 uses the terms *experiential learning* and *portfolio-based assessment* interchangeably to refer to providing “credit for college-level experience gained through employment or other experience” through a “specific process to compile a portfolio of learning that is reviewed by appropriate University faculty members and assigned a credit value”;

**Whereas** the Ohio Department of Higher Education’s Prior Learning Assessment Initiative uses the term *prior learning assessment* to refer to credit by examination, military credit, and portfolio-based assessment.<sup>2</sup> ODHE uses the term *portfolio-based assessment* for when “students develop a summary (paper or electronic) of their learning experiences outside the traditional college classroom that is then assessed by the institution to determine whether academic knowledge and skills have been acquired”<sup>3</sup>; and

**Whereas** OHIO’s University Curriculum Council proposes a broader use of the term *experiential learning* to describe the process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience using activities that are intentionally designed to develop students’ knowledge, skills, and attitudes through experience related to a field. Contexts of experiential learning include (but are not limited to) internships, apprenticeships, clinical experience, fellowships, cooperatives, field work, practicums, community engagement (service-learning, community-based research, volunteering), interactive simulations, role-playing, performance, professional internship / student teaching, study abroad / cultural immersion, research (basic, applied, lab, industry, community), live case studies, job training, and student organization leadership.

**Be it resolved** that the OHIO University Undergraduate Catalogue be changed to remove the term *experiential learning* and adding the term *prior learning assessment* when referring to *portfolio-based assessment*:

1. Options for Receiving Credit subsection of the Academic Policies and Procedures section

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: Ohio University, The OHIO Guarantee 2018-19. Retrieved from <https://www.ohio.edu/bursar/ohio-guarantee-18-19.cfm>.

<sup>2</sup> Source: ODHE, PLA with a Purpose: Prior Learning Assessment & Ohio’s College Completion Agenda. Retrieved from <https://www.ohiohighered.org/PLA/resources#d>

<sup>3</sup> Source: ODHE, PLA with a Purpose, Glossary of Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Terms. Retrieved from <https://www.ohiohighered.org/PLA/resources#d>

**Prior Learning Assessment.** You also may be able to earn credit without attending formal classes through two opportunities offered through OHIO's Office of Instructional Innovation. Prior learning assessment is designed to provide credit for college-level experience gained through employment or other experience. You follow a specific process to compile a portfolio of learning that is reviewed by appropriate University faculty members and assigned a credit value. Course credit by examination allows you to study or review a given subject and be tested on the subject within six months of enrollment, after which a letter grade is assigned and credit is awarded based on performance on the examination. Prior learning assessment and course credit by examination may be available on request; each request is evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if the option is appropriate to meet the student's goals. These options are not eligible for financial aid. More information is available at [www.ohio.edu/ecampus/credit-for-experience.html](http://www.ohio.edu/ecampus/credit-for-experience.html) (See also eCampus information in the catalog.)

2. Transferred Credit from Ohio Colleges and Universities subsection of the Academic Policies and Procedures section

**Transfer of Nontraditional Credit.** Credits earned at a state-supported institution located in Ohio through pass/fail options, credit by examination, prior learning assessment, and by other nontraditional methods will be applicable to the equivalent courses when available at Ohio University. If there are no equivalent courses and if the courses are not applicable to the statewide guarantee equivalencies, Transfer Module, General Education requirements, or specific programmatic requirements, the courses will count as free electives. However, some programs or degrees have limitations on the number of nontraditional credits which can be counted, or there may be a limit to the fields in which these credits may be taken. In these cases, credit shall be applied for transfer students in the same manner as for native students.

3. Official Grades subsection of the Academic Policies and Procedures section

TX	NA	Prior Learning Assessment.	No
		Effective Fall Quarter 2007-08.	

4. Requirements subsection of the Graduation Requirements – University section

No more than 30 semester credit hours earned in prior learning assessment may be applied toward a bachelor's degree, and no more than 15 semester credit hours toward an associate's degree. Successful completion of [UC 2030 - Credit for Work Experience: Portfolio Development](#) is a requirement for prior learning assessment.