



## Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is a term used to describe the evaluation of college level learning for college credit that is gained outside a traditional academic environment. King University employs prior learning assessment aligned with institutional mission, academic integrity, and student educational attainment and success.

PLA credits apply toward majors, minors, concentrations, general education requirements, and electives that count toward the degree being sought in the same manner as traditional courses. PLA credits shall not be treated differently in their application and use than their course equivalencies or appropriate block credit. PLA may be accepted up to 30 total credits of a bachelor degree, and up to 15 total credits of an associate degree. These total credits may be comprised of multiple types of PLA.

### Types of Prior Learning Assessment

#### 1. Credit by Examination

- a. **Advanced Placement** – Course credit for successful completion of Advanced Placement examinations administered by the College Entrance Examination Board to high school students will be granted to students presenting Advanced Placement examination grades of four (4) or higher. A letter grade of “P” will be assigned for credit granted. Because no grade is assigned other than “P,” no Quality Points will be awarded to count toward GPA. A grade of three (3) will exempt a student from the course.
- b. **College Level Exam Program (CLEP)** – Students may earn college credit for certain examinations administered by the College Level Exam Program. To receive credit for a CLEP test, a minimum score must be earned (Contact the Registrar for information on scores required for credit for specific courses). CLEP credit will be transcribed as course specific credit with a grade of “P.” Because no grade is assigned other than “P,” no Quality Points will be awarded to count toward GPA. CLEP credit will be identified as transfer credit from the College Level Exam Program.
- c. **DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST)** – Students may earn college credit for acceptable scores on the DANTES Subject Standardized Test based on the credit recommendations and minimum scores recommended by the American Council on Education. Students should submit an official DANTES transcript for review. A letter grade of “P” will be assigned for credit granted. Because no grade is assigned other than “P,” no Quality Points will be awarded to count toward GPA.
- d. **International Baccalaureate Program** – King recognizes the IB diploma and King will grant a maximum of 8 hours of credit for scores of 5, 6, and 7 on each of the IB Higher Level examinations. The Registrar in conference with the Chief Academic Officer will decide the amount of credit awarded. The maximum number of credit hours awarded for IB is 30.

## 2. Credit Recommendation for Past Training (Credit Recommendation Service)

- a. **Prior Military Training Credit** – College credit for military training may be awarded through the American Council on Education (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service or through direct evaluation of the student’s service school transcripts. For ACE evaluated credit, students must request and submit to the institution an official transcript from ACE in order to receive PLA credit, and the training must be evaluated by ACE and included in the *ACE Guide*.
- b. **Occupational and Workplace Training** – Credit awarded for completion of workplace (corporate, government, etc.) training may be awarded based on recommendations by nationally recognized college credit recommendation services such as the American Council on Education (ACE). A letter grade of “P” will be assigned for credit granted. Because no grade is assigned other than “P,” no Quality Points will be awarded to count toward GPA.

## 3. NLN ACE II (Acceleration Challenge Exams)

**RN-BSN Advanced Placement** -- In an attempt to minimize barriers to entry into the baccalaureate level of education for registered nurses, and with the intent to encourage educational mobility for the diploma or associate degree nurse, the King School of Nursing offers an opportunity to validate demonstrated competence beyond that which has been verified through previous academic achievement.

Awarding academic credit is accomplished through successful completion of a validation process which will be completed during the first semester of enrollment. To be eligible for the advanced placement credit, the student’s file must show evidence of:

- i. Graduation from an NLNAC accredited diploma or associate degree program,
- ii. Completed nursing courses with a “C” grade or higher,
- iii. Current and valid registered nurse license,
- iv. Current work experience as a registered nurse (resume),
- v. Validation of clinical competency (current employer performance evaluation), and
- vi. Two letters of reference documenting the potential to succeed in the RN-BSN track. One must be from a professor who has taught the applicant.

Validation consists of successfully passing a series of tests using the National League of Nursing NLN ACE II tests. The ACE II series consist of three (3) standardized exams that validate thirty-seven hours of general nursing knowledge in the care of the adult client, the childbearing client and the child, and the client with mental disorders. They are offered twice annually. Advanced notification of exam details will be posted. Students should contact their Student Success Specialists for further information.

RN students who do not choose to earn credit through the ACE II exams are encouraged to take Pathway courses at King, particularly Statistics and Pathophysiology.