

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

South Arkansas Community College recognized that students may come to the institution with knowledge or skills equivalent to those required in courses taught at SouthArk and have provided several options whereby college credit may be awarded for those courses.

This policy includes the opportunity for a high school graduate to enter with sophomore standing if sufficient credit has been earned in the AP or CLPE programs. Credit permitted will be allowed for the corresponding courses or sequence of courses at the college, but no grade will be assigned to the approved credit nor will the hours meet residency requirements. Student who earn such credit should be aware that credit may not be awarded for a similar course should the transfer to another college or university. Students should check with the registrar of any institution they plan to transfer to determine what level of credit or placement they will receive for similar courses.

For all Credit for Prior Learning the following policies are in place.

1. Students may not test out of Composition II or any basic studies courses. See the Testing Center section of SouthArk's website for more details.
2. Six hours of credit must be completed at South Arkansas Community College before any credit will be applied to a South Arkansas Community College Transcript.
3. A student may earn no more than 50% of credit toward a degree or certificate in any combination of prior learning assessment.
4. Students will begin the process of assessing prior learning with the appropriate student advising coach or program director.
5. With the exception of accredited college transcript evaluation, all requests for credit for prior learning will be approved by the appropriate Dean and the Vice-President for Learning.
6. To receive a degree from SouthArk, a student must complete any 50% or the last 25% of the hours required with South Arkansas Community College.

Acceptance of Transfer Credits

Transfer credit will be evaluated by the Office of Enrollment Services and added to the permanent record only for person who are enrolled as degree-seeking students. Credit earned at another college will be transferred to SouthArk if the institution is accredited by one of the six regional agencies and the student successfully completed the course with a "C" or higher. Credit earned at other institutions will not be calculated in the student's SouthArk cumulative GPA. The student should contact his or her student advising coach or program director to submit a transcript evaluation request.

Advanced Placement Program

South Arkansas Community College participate in the Advanced Placement Program (AP) of the College Entrance Examination Board for entering freshman. A student should see his or her student advising coach or program director to submit an application for Prior Learning

Assessment by External Examination along with the official test transcript verifying earned scores. Scores of 3,4, or 5 may be eligible for college credit for an equivalent course listed in the general catalog.

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)

South Arkansas Community College participates in the College-Level Examination Program. A student should see his or her student advising coach or program director to submit an application for Prior Learning Assessment by External Examination along with the official test transcript verifying earned scores. See the Testing Center section of SouthArk's website for more details (www.southark.edu). The CLEP exam is given at the Testing and Learning center (TLC) (870) 864-7196.

Credit by Examination

SouthArk offers credit by examination for some of its introductory courses. In order to take these examinations and receive such credit, the student should see his or her student advising coach or program director for details regarding test availability and to submit an application for Prior Learning Assessment by Internal Examination.

The following guidelines are used for awarding college credit to students;

1. Examination may be offered by appointment in The Learning Center or by arrangement with the department involved.
2. A non-refundable fee of \$12 per semester credit plus a \$7 testing fee must be paid to the cashier in the Bookstore before the test is administered. The Bookstore will provide the student a receipt authorizing testing.
3. Examination are not available for basic studies courses, performing music and studio art courses, physical education courses, or courses covered by the CLEP exam.
4. Credit will be awarded to students aiming a minimum score of 80 percent on the examination. Credit earned is awarded on a pass/fail basis only.
5. Student are not permitted to receive credit by examination for courses in which they have previously been enrolled.

Credit for Previous Training or Experience

Students with knowledge or skills equivalent to those required in courses taught at SouthArk may be awarded credit in those courses. In order to receive such credit, the student must contact his or her student advising coach or program director to begin the assessment process and submit an application for Prior Learning Assessment for Military Experience, Professional Experience or Portfolio. Using transcripts and appropriate documentation, the college will consider granting credit based on the American Council on Education the College Credit Recommendations published by the University of the State of New York, or similar guides.

Where no documentation and/or guide are available the college may also consider granting credit based upon the evaluation of a portfolio completely defining the experience or training for what credit is sought. This portfolio development may be done either through Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) or through a portfolio course offered by the college. The portfolio will then be evaluated by the appropriate Dean, faculty and outside experts to determine if learning objects have been met for the appropriate college level course.