



Adults and the Changing Environment of Higher Education



CAEL's Overarching Goal:

**Meaningful Learning,
Credentials, and Work for
Every Adult**



For more than 40 years,
CAEL has been linking
adults' lifelong learning with
credits and careers

What is Prior Learning Assessment? (PLA)

Prior **L**earning **A**ssessment is the process for evaluating knowledge and skills to award college credit for learning from:



On-the-job training



Independent Study



Military and Volunteer Service



Training Courses and/or Certifications

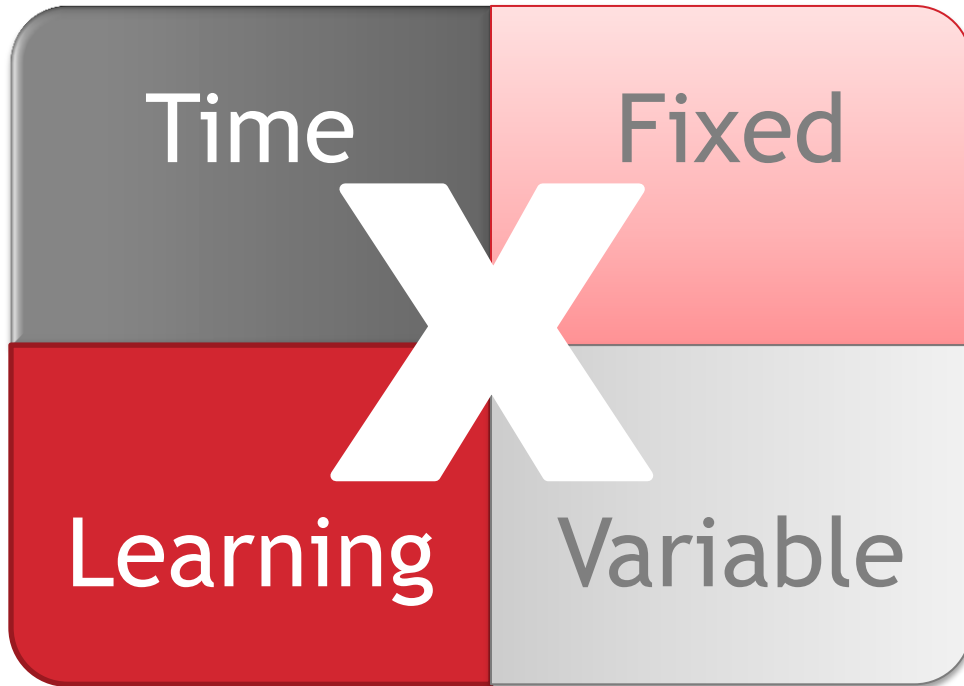


Work Experience

What is Competency-Based Education (CBE)?

- Awards credits based on demonstration of **mastery of competencies** required in an area of study
- Only need to be taught or guided to resources to fill gaps
- Often modularized and online
- Time, source of knowledge, and pace are irrelevant
- Not credit hour based. Usually flat fee.
- Typically significantly faster and cheaper
- Easier to demonstrate value to employers
- Easier to fit into busy schedule

Changing the Formula



The CBE-PLA Continuum

CBE ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● PLA

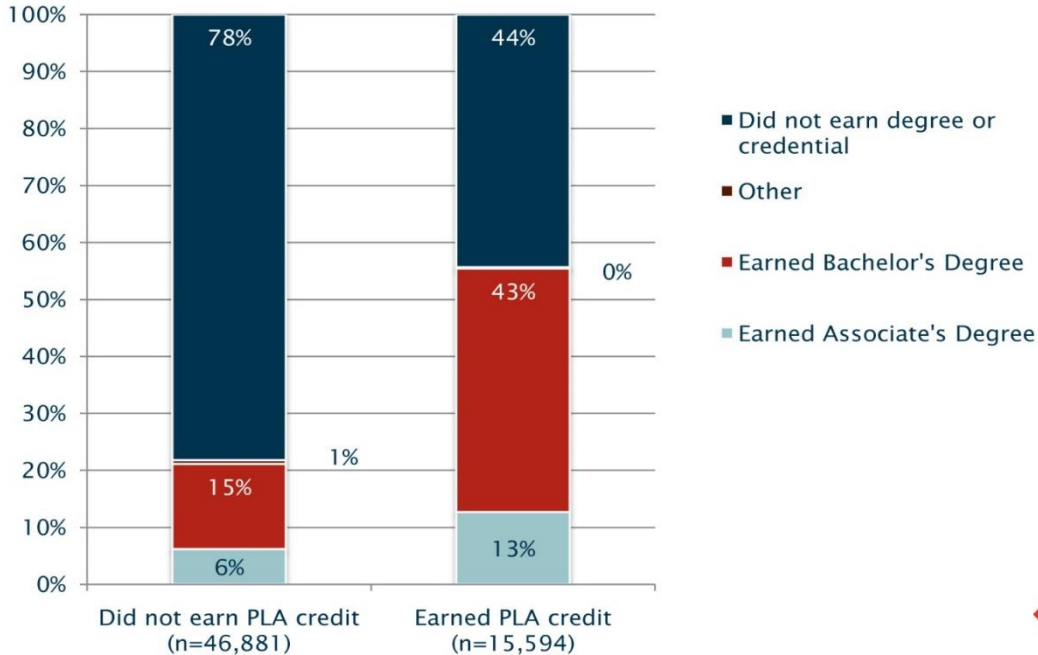
Why do PLA and CBE?

- Better performing students
- Reduced costs and time
- Closer workforce alignment
- Higher demand for courses

Graduation and Completion

2.5X

Baccalaureate students are 2.5X more likely to persist to graduation
Associates students are 2X more likely to persist to graduation.



Why do PLA and CBE?

- Target adult students
- Attract adults back to education
- Financing consideration

Examples

- PLA
 - Arkansas
 - Colorado
 - Idaho
 - Minnesota
 - Montana
 - New Hampshire
 - North Carolina
 - Ohio
 - Tennessee
 - Texas
 - Utah
 - West Virginia
 - Wisconsin
- CBE
 - Kentucky
 - Indiana
 - Minnesota
 - Missouri
 - Texas
 - Washington
 - Wisconsin

Why adults matter in numbers

- 36,174,067
 - 21.76%
 - 43,843,773
 - 26.37%
 - 80,017,840
 - 48.13%
 - 54,876,000
- Number of adults in US with some college, no degree
 - Number of adults with only high school diploma
 - Combined Total
 - Total K12 Enrollment

Enrollment

87% of Americans think students should be able to receive college credit for knowledge and skills acquired outside the classroom

75% would be more likely to enroll in higher ed if they could receive credit for what they already know

Lumina Gallup Poll: America's Call for Higher Education Redesign - Feb 2013.

What else is different about adult and non-traditional programs?

- More flexible
- More career-focused
- Values experience and maturity
- Minimal frustration
- Adult-specific supports

Wilson Finch: wfinch@cael.org

CAEL Website: www.cael.org

