



**NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**

*Thomas A. Stith III*

*President*

**NUMBERED MEMO CC21-050**

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Community Colleges  
Community College Presidents  
Chairs of the Boards of Trustees  
Community College Chief Academic Officers, Chief Admissions Officers, Basic Skills Directors, Business Officers, Continuing Education Officers, Chief Financial Officers, Financial Aid Officers, Public Information Officers, Registrars, Student Development Administrators, & Other Interested Parties

**FROM:** Tawanda Foster Artis  
General Counsel

**DATE:** October 21, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Amendment of 1D SBCCC 800.2 - General Provisions

---

On October 15, 2021, the State Board of Community Colleges voted to amend **1D SBCCC 800.2 - General Provisions**. This rule sets the academic conventions and minimum standards for all North Carolina community colleges for awarding credit for prior learning. Sub-section (b) of 1D SBCCC 800.2 lists the learning methods for which colleges may award credit for prior learning. The amendment would rename the prior learning method of “Certifications and Licensures” to “State or Industry Recognized Credentials/Continuing Education to Curriculum Credit.”

**The adoption will be effective November 1, 2021. The new title will be published on the NC Community College System’s website, [www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/sbcccode](http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/sbcccode).** For your convenience, a copy of the rule in its final form is attached to this memorandum.



1                                   **State Board of Community Colleges Code**  
2                                   **Title 1 – COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

3  
4                           **CHAPTER D.           EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

5  
6                           **SUBCHAPTER 800.   CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING**

7  
8   **1D SBCCC 800.2 General Provisions**

- 9 (a) The purpose of this Subchapter is to guarantee that all North Carolina Community  
10 Colleges follow consistent academic conventions to ensure the integrity of the CPL  
11 process and to establish minimum standards for all NC community colleges.
- 12 (b) Consistent with the provisions of this Subchapter colleges are authorized to award  
13 CPL using the following prior learning methods:
- 14 (1) Apprenticeship
  - 15 (2) State or Industry Recognized Credentials/Continuing  
16 Education to Curriculum Credit
  - 17 (3) Courses listed in high school to community college articulation agreements.
  - 18 (4) Military education and training
  - 19 (5) Standardized examinations
  - 20 (6) Challenge exams/Proficiency
  - 21 (7) Portfolio assessment
  - 22 (8) Public Safety Training (PST) prefix courses
- 23 (c) Colleges may award curriculum CPL when the documentation of prior learning  
24 meets or exceeds a demonstration of learning outcomes at the institutions'  
25 standards for awarding credit for the corresponding curriculum course. Institutions  
26 may award CPL that exceeds the minimum standards established in this  
27 Subchapter.
- 28 (d) Colleges may only award curriculum CPL that is directly applicable to a student's  
29 declared curriculum program of study.
- 30 (e) CPL for advanced courses does not negate the requirement to meet requisite  
31 learning outcomes.

- 1 (f) CPL may be used to fulfill program requirements except for mandatory institutional  
2 requirements. Examples may include, but are not limited to, requirements of  
3 external agencies that specifically prohibited the use of CPL to fulfill the program  
4 requirements.
- 5 (g) CPL cannot be used to satisfy the college's institutional credit requirements, which  
6 prescribes the minimum percentage of credit hours a student must earn through  
7 instruction offered by the institution awarding the credential. No greater than  
8 seventy-five percent (75%) of the credit hours required for graduation from a  
9 curriculum program of study may be earned through CPL.
- 10 (h) Any CPL awarded by a college shall be reflected in the student's records by the  
11 college's Registrar Office without quality points assigned, except for allowances for  
12 graded military credit as described in 1D SBCCC 800.6"
- 13 (i) Course Credit CPL standards approved by the CCRC shall be considered for  
14 transfer to any college in the North Carolina Community College System.
- 15 (j) The local board of trustees shall adopt a policy governing the awarding of CPL. At  
16 a minimum, the local policy shall be consistent with standards established by this  
17 Subchapter. The local policy may include additional opportunities for students to  
18 receive CPL. Each college shall publish its CPL policy in the college's educational  
19 catalog.
- 20 (k) Colleges shall establish a procedure that students must follow to request a prior  
21 learning assessment. This procedure shall be published in the college's  
22 educational catalog.
- 23 (l) To be eligible to receive CPL, students must meet all of the following criteria:  
24 (1) Meet all admission requirements for their program of study.  
25 (2) Be enrolled in a curriculum program to which the credit will directly apply; and  
26 (3) Request a prior learning assessment consistent with the college's CPL  
27 procedures and provide all documentation by the published deadlines.
- 28 (m) Nothing in this rule shall be construed to supersede limitations imposed by an  
29 accreditation, credentialing, licensure, or other external agency on the application

1 of CPL towards credentials under their purview. In such instances, the college shall  
2 document the applicable limitations in the student's file.

3

4 *History Note: Authority* G.S. 115D-5;

5 *Eff.* [April 1, 2021.](#)

6 *Amended Eff.* [November 1, 2021.](#)