PRIOR LEARNING is a term used by educators to describe learning acquired outside a traditional academic environment. This may have been through work experience, employer training programs, military training and experience, independent study, volunteer or community service, and so on. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) describes the evaluation of an individual’s learning for college credit, certification, or advanced standing toward further education or training.

How do I use LearningCounts.org?

1. Talk to an advisor (optional, and, free of charge)
   You have the option to speak one-on-one with an advisor to find out which LearningCounts.org PLA format is right for you.

2. Enroll in the course
   CAEL 100: Prior Learning Assessment Theory and Practice, a six-week, three credit, online course begins regularly to help you document your learning and lead you through the development of your portfolio.

3. Create your portfolio
   You will learn how to compile your portfolio and get it ready for evaluation by a faculty expert. You can also use this portfolio to showcase your skills to employers.

4. Request a portfolio assessment
   Faculty from colleges and universities across the country will evaluate prior learning portfolios and recommend credit awards. These recommendations will be recorded on an American Council on Education (ACE CREDIT) transcript.

Fees
Tuition for CAEL 100 is $500. Fees for portfolio evaluation are $250 per portfolio. Students may request up to six (6) credits per portfolio within a single discipline. For requests greater than six credits or across multiple disciplines, students may submit additional portfolios.

CAEL is the leader in connecting learning and work for adults. We advocate and innovate on behalf of adult learners, providing opportunities to access education, meaningful work, and economic security. We support colleges and universities that wish to attract, retain, and graduate more adult students. We build workforce organizations’ capacity to connect worker skills to employer demands. We provide employers with smart strategies for employee development and retention.
You may already have credits. Take a test to see if you have learned the subject and have earned college credit.

These exams are part of the College Examination Program, which is used to determine if you have already learned the subject and should receive college credit. If you pass the test, you will receive college credit for what you already know.

Show what you have learned. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is a process that helps you demonstrate your knowledge and earn college credit. If you think that you have learned the subject and should receive college credit, you can take the test to see if you have already learned the subject.