



- Adams State has multiple pathways similar to CSU-Global including CPL, PLA, and credit by examination.
- The nuts and bolts for most of these are in policies, which can be found at:
  - [100-13 Transfer Policies – Undergraduate](#)
  - [100-07 Credit for Prior Experience – Undergraduate](#)

- For the most part academic departments (chairs and faculty) are familiar with credit for prior learning and competency based examination and support these pathways.
- ASU awards a fair number of credits through these pathways without any major challenges.

- As it turns out PLA is a different situation.

# First Challenge

- The primary issue for ASU seems to be that many people interchange PLA with CLE (credit for life experience).
- CLE has been depicted by the popular media as awarding degrees based on life experience.
- While they may seem to be similar on the surface the difference is in the details.

- PLA is a more formal assessment of knowledge that has been learned outside of the classroom that is equivalent to what is learned in the classroom.
- This knowledge must be articulated, quantified, and evaluated.

# Attempted Remedy

- We have been working hard at clearly communicating to students, faculty, and chairs as to what PLA is and what it isn't.
- We need to make this communication more formal and need to develop some printed materials.

# Second Challenge

- With the realization that the assurance of quality is going to require work, questions arise.
- Who is going to work with the students to put together the evidence to be evaluated (typically a portfolio)?
- Once the portfolio is developed who is going to evaluate it?
- What is the basis of the evaluation?
- Is there professional development training for PLA involvement?

# Attempted Remedy

- We have proposed changing our procedure to use an external entity for initial portfolio review ([learningcounts.org](http://learningcounts.org)).
- As for the professional development we are offering to assist in the development of rubrics if they don't already have them or to have an assessment person from our distance education department do the course specific assessment using the course student learning outcomes.

# Third Challenge

- Given the broad spectrum of knowledge learned outside of the classroom, the struggle is that ASU doesn't always have a course that the content aligns with well.

# Proposed Remedy

- This is a challenge for smaller institutions as we have a much smaller slate of course offerings. We are currently awarding elective credits where appropriate.
- A large portion of this comes in the area of teacher education.

# Financial Challenge

- One of the other common questions comes down to “is it worth the time and energy”.
- We typically get 2-3 PLA portfolio review requests per month.
- Typically the content in the portfolio does not align with the content in a specific ASU course.
- In a strictly dollar and sense evaluation it probably doesn't make sense but it does align well with our role and mission as well as the States Goals.