

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Workgroup Report to Academic Senate

April 29, 2026

Introduction:

The Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Workgroup continues to advance equitable and accessible pathways for students to receive academic credit for validated prior learning, including military training, industry certifications, standardized exams, credit-by-exam, and work-based learning. During the Spring 2026 semester, the Workgroup focused on strengthening institutional processes, aligning with statewide initiatives, expanding partnerships, and preparing for long-term sustainability through planning and policy development. These efforts directly support Bakersfield College's commitment to access, equity, and student success.

Membership and Structure:

The Workgroup meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom, bringing together faculty, counselors, instructional leaders, articulation specialists, and admissions personnel. Meeting materials, agendas, minutes, recordings, and resources are posted on the CPL Canvas page to ensure transparency and accessibility for all members.

Major Accomplishments:

1. PRT Grant Progress and Institutional Alignment

The Workgroup made significant progress under the PRT grant, including successful site visits and continued focus group engagement to inform institutional improvements. During the Spring 2026 semester, the PRT team provided highly positive feedback, affirming the college's direction and progress in strengthening CPL practices. The final PRT visit is scheduled for Fall 2026 and will serve as a key milestone in evaluating outcomes and sustainability. Additionally, planning is underway for the IME plan associated with the IEPI grant budget. This work aligns closely with broader institutional planning efforts, including the INE and IA plans, ensuring CPL is embedded within strategic priorities.

2. CPL Summit Participation and Statewide Engagement

On April 20, 2026, members of the CPL Workgroup attended the CPL Summit in Sacramento to further strengthen institutional capacity and align with statewide best practices. The summit focused on expanding CPL access, building equitable pathways for students, and enhancing workforce-aligned credit opportunities. Insights gained from this convening will inform ongoing improvements to CPL processes, partnerships, and student support strategies.

3. Articulation and MAP System Enhancements

Significant progress has been made in improving articulation processes and maintaining accuracy within the MAP system. Ongoing efforts include reviewing and updating over 100 courses and multiple program areas to ensure alignment and accuracy. Work is also underway to enhance MAP functionality, including improved processes for transferring student cases between advisors and counselors. While new features show promise, additional refinement is needed to ensure accurate communication and tracking.

4. Policy, Curriculum, and Form Development

The Workgroup continues to align CPL practices with updated Title V regulations and institutional policies. Accomplishments include:

- Finalization of the military CPL approval form with structured options for accept, deny, and appeal
- Development of a new military CPL petition form to support student graduation processes
- Ongoing work to consolidate multiple CPL-related forms (credit-by-exam, industry certifications, and portfolio assessment) into a more streamlined process
- Identification of gaps in appeal processes for AP, IB, and CLEP credit, with plans for standardized forms

Additionally, a new non-military CPL form is being developed for industry students, modeled after the military process.

5. Partnership Development and Expansion

The Workgroup continues to expand partnerships to increase CPL opportunities for students:

- Continued collaboration with the Public Safety Training Pathway and Veterans Resource Office
- Exploration of a new partnership with Pacific West Academy to support CPL in security training programs
- Development of a new opportunity with CDCR to offer CPL for NCCER Welding Level 2 certificates, building on prior successful partnerships such as MAOF

6. Veterans Programs and Student Support Alignment

The Workgroup collaborated with Veterans Programs to improve alignment of CPL information within student-facing systems. Efforts include coordinating with the MAP team to ensure accurate boot camp information and improving communication to help veteran students navigate CPL options.

7. INE and IA Plan Development

Significant progress was made in developing the INE plan template, including drafting objectives and recommendations informed by focus groups. Discussions are ongoing regarding governance structure, including whether CPL should become a standing committee or remain a standing agenda item. The IA plan is also under active review, with presentations planned for key groups, including EAC and executive leadership. A dedicated deep-dive session will be scheduled to ensure thorough review and alignment. Evidence from the Strategic Plan 2025–2030 will be incorporated to demonstrate progress on CPL initiatives.

8. Student Processes and Communication Improvements

The Workgroup continues to improve transparency and efficiency for students through:

- Development of a website timeline outlining a 4–8 week CPL transcript evaluation process
- Clarification of graduation petition deadlines and processes
- Emphasis on individualized advising to support informed CPL decisions, particularly regarding financial aid and academic planning
- Exploration of streamlined, student-centered processes to reduce confusion and improve access

Ongoing Projects and Priorities

- Finalization and implementation of CPL forms through the curriculum process
- Continued articulation updates and MAP system enhancements
- Expansion of workforce and industry partnerships
- Advancement of INE and IA plans with broader campus engagement
- Preparation for the final PRT visit in Fall 2026
- Integration of CPL Summit insights into institutional practices

Challenges and Considerations

- Continued need for consistent cross-departmental communication and alignment
- Ongoing refinement of workflows to manage increasing CPL inquiries
- Ensuring system functionality (MAP) supports efficient and accurate processing

The Spring 2026 semester reflects meaningful progress in strengthening CPL practices at Bakersfield College. Positive feedback from the PRT visit, increased statewide engagement, expanded partnerships, and continued process improvements demonstrate strong institutional momentum. The Workgroup remains committed to advancing equitable access, improving systems, and supporting student success through innovative CPL strategies.

Respectfully submitted,
Kailani Henry