



Resolution No: SR 21-02

Resolution Title: Expanding Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) & College-Learning Examination Program (CLEP) Exams

In the Senate: April 8, 2021

For Special Order

Authored & Introduced by: Junior Class Senator Brient Kealoha A. Hutchinson & Secretary Kylie Matsuda

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SENATE:

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (ASUHW O) Senate is the elected body representing approximately 3,000 classified undergraduate students; and

WHEREAS, stated in the constitution of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu “The purpose of this organization shall be to provide democratic representation for the students of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu and to promote student participation in educational, cultural, social and community activities;” and

WHEREAS, at the present moment, the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu offers Prior Learning Assessments (PLA) & the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) as an option for students to accumulate credits from specific courses so they can progress further on in taking other courses; and

WHEREAS, there is a total of 33 exams available for students to earn transfer credits¹; and

WHEREAS, UH Hilo has identified that it has 27 CLEP exams and UH Mānoa has designated 18 CLEP exams that align with courses out of the 33 CLEP courses available as a whole; and

WHEREAS, UHWO currently has designated (11) CLEP exams with direct transfer course designations²; and

¹ <https://westoahu.hawaii.edu/policies/transfer-credit-policy-and-information/>

² <https://westoahu.hawaii.edu/noeacenter/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CLEP-Brochure.pdf>

WHEREAS, the maximum number of CLEP exams students can take up to is 7, which is equivalent to 21 credits if the student did not previously earn or transfer in a credit grade³; and

WHEREAS, all students are eligible to complete CLEP exams, for transferable college credits; and

WHEREAS, Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) opportunities such as (CLEP) exams validate a student's acquired learning and helps them earn their degrees faster. Ultimately, helping to increase graduation rates and degree attainment; and

WHEREAS, if a student does not earn a CLEP score of 50 or higher, the CLEP exam is not placed on an individual student's transcript and will not lower a student's GPA⁴; and

WHEREAS, students who earn a CLEP score of 50 or higher will be able to earn transfer credits and the credits will be included in their academic transcripts⁵; and

WHEREAS, the designated cut score of (50 or higher) is equivalent to a letter grade of a C or higher on the CollegeBoard CLEP exam and will earn course credit for the relevant approved course or as elective credits⁶; and

WHEREAS, on the UHWO General Catalog and website, the College CLEP exams policies are posted⁷; and

WHEREAS, since CLEP is a standardized test, students will incur fees for the CLEP exam and for the administration of the exam; and

WHEREAS, ideally it would be best for the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committees to work together towards designating the additional CLEP exams for courses; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu alongside the Student Affairs Committee will help advocate and support that UHWO expands on its Prior Learning Assessments, in particular the expansion on CLEP exams, to be designated for more courses; and

³ <https://westoahu.hawaii.edu/policies/transfer-credit-policy-and-information/>

⁴ <https://westoahu.hawaii.edu/noeaucecenter/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CLEP-Brochure.pdf>

⁵ <https://westoahu.hawaii.edu/noeaucecenter/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CLEP-Brochure.pdf>

⁶ <https://westoahu.hawaii.edu/noeaucecenter/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CLEP-Brochure.pdf>

⁷ https://laulima.hawaii.edu/access/content/group/7f15ffd1-3033-4bb5-957f-693763e48233/Catalog/CATALOG_2021-22/UHWOCatalog_2021-22.pdf

BE IT RESOLVED, University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu shall communicate and work with the necessary department heads to ensure and spread awareness toward students and faculty staff regarding the Prior Learning Assessment opportunities, including the College-Level Examination Program; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that a PLA coordinator or Co-coordinators from Academic Affairs and Student Affairs will be appointed to ensure that students have a point of contact and are taking the appropriate exams within the first two year span of their college journey at UHWO for their required courses; and

BE IT RESOLVED, Student Affairs Committee (SAC) is focusing on helping to identify more course designations connected to CLEP exams, so students can get credit for specific courses and not only receiving an elective transfer; and

BE IT RESOLVED, current and former military service members who have taken CLEP exams shall also be able to earn transferable credits at UHWO; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to UHWO Chancellor Maenette Benham, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Jeffery Moniz, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Jan Javinar, Kevin Ishida Vice Chancellor For Administration, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Alan Rosendfeld, Humanities Department Chairperson Jon Magnussen, The Student Affairs Committee, The Academic Affairs Committee, and to any and all Academic Division Chairs, Faculty, Lecturers, and Instructors.