



Adult learners comprise nearly half of all college students in this country. They are a diverse group with diverse backgrounds. Many have already earned some college credit. Others may have significant life experiences that could translate into college credit. Like other adult learner programs, the Hargrove School of Adult & Graduate Studies at Lincoln Christian University (LCU) recognizes prior learning for which adult students may earn college credit



Here are answers to commonly asked questions regarding the options available at LCU for students seeking credit for prior learning.

**1. Will I receive credit for college courses I've taken before coming to LCU?**

Yes. College credits from an accredited school are transferred at no charge to your Adult & Graduate Studies program, when they provide an official transcript with a final course grade of least C. Any course transferred must also meet a program requirement or elective option at LCU. For example, a basic course in English counts toward our Written Composition program requirement, while an advanced literature course could count as a humanities elective or an open elective. The School of Adult & Graduate Studies has some core course requirements that must be completed here (e.g. Introduction to Adult Studies), but LCU will review all courses taken elsewhere to ensure as much credit as possible is given.

**2. Can I "test out" of certain course requirements?**

LCU allows up to 30 hours of course requirements (see limits under #5 below) to be met through a "proficiency exam" process, with the permission of the student's faculty advisor. LCU recognizes these exams:

- The College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP) documents credit earned "for knowledge acquired through independent study, prior course work, on-the-job training, professional development, cultural pursuits, or internships." LCU accepts credit for any of the 34 CLEP exams available (ranging from business to science) that meet a program or elective requirement and have an earned score of at least 50. Learn more at the College Board's Web site at [www.collegeboard.com/clep](http://www.collegeboard.com/clep).
- The DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST) Credit by Exam Program, formerly administered by the Department of Defense to document college credit for military personnel is now available to any adult student who desires to document their proficiency in one of 37 areas. LCU accepts passing grades recommended by the American Council on Education® (ACE) in any exam that meets a program or elective requirement. For more information, visit their Web site at [www.getcollegecredit.com](http://www.getcollegecredit.com), which also includes a list of passing grades for each exam.
- The American Council on Education® provides a number of services to help adult learners document previous work experiences, especially for workforce training from a participating organization listed on their Web site ([www.acenet.edu](http://www.acenet.edu)). Just click on "Adult Learners" under their "More Information" menu. (Note that Continuing Education Units [CEUs] are not generally acceptable for college credit.)

*In addition to any fees that these testing agencies may charge students, LCU also charges a transcribing fee of \$50 per credit hour to document these credits on your LCU transcript.*

### **3. Can I get credit for work or life experiences?**

LCU will accept “experiential learning,” provided the student documents the actual college-level learning that occurred and how that learning meets a program requirement or elective. Up to 30



hours of credit (usually in 1-6 hour blocks) can be awarded for demonstrated learning from a variety of sources (see #5 below). These sources include workshops, seminars, self-study, non-credit classes, training programs, and work-related learning. Students interested in obtaining such credit must enroll in Lincoln’s three-hour online Focused Writing course (CPL 101), which helps students document their experiential learning through a “portfolio” process. Portfolios may include documentation in the form of testimonials from former employers or clients and/or demonstrations or examples of work performed (e.g.

written papers, video presentations, physical objects, etc.). LCU’s Hargrove School follows the Kolb Model of experiential learning (see [www.infed.org/biblio/b-explrn.htm](http://www.infed.org/biblio/b-explrn.htm) ). Students submitting portfolios pay an up-front fee of \$90 and an additional \$50 for each hour of college credit awarded.

### **4. What about Advanced Placement courses that I took in high school?**

Advanced Placement (AP) refers to courses offered in many high schools that students can complete for college credit. The Hargrove School accepts most AP courses (there are more than 30 in subjects ranging from art to world history), provided the final exam score earned is a 3 or higher (or C or higher) and provided the course matches a program requirement or elective option. For more information, visit the College Board’s AP Web site: ([www.collegeboard.com/apc](http://www.collegeboard.com/apc)).

### **5. What else should I know about these options?**

- Lincoln requires students who want to pursue either the proficiency option (# 2 above) or the experiential learning option (#3 above) to do that as early as possible before the final semester of their program.
- Students who want to transfer course work from another school (#1 above) or AP credit from high school (#4 above) should do so when they apply for admission to LCU.
- The only limits on these options are that students may earn no more than 30 hours of credit total through the proficiency option and experiential learning option. Also, students may not use those two options for core courses in their major.
- Students must complete at least one-fourth of their program at LCU (i.e. 15 hours for an associate degree and 30 hours for a bachelor’s degree).

### **How can I get more information?**

Please contact our CPL Coordinator, Scott Stocking, at [sstocking@lincolnchristian.edu](mailto:sstocking@lincolnchristian.edu). You may also call Jessica Hanson, Director of Admissions, at 1-888-522-5228, ext. 2306, or email her at [jhanson@lincolnchristian.edu](mailto:jhanson@lincolnchristian.edu). For more information about the Hargrove School of Adult & Graduate Studies at Lincoln Christian University, please visit our Web site at [www.lincolnchristian.edu/hargrove](http://www.lincolnchristian.edu/hargrove).