

# WAYS TO EARN CREDIT THROUGH PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Prior learning assessment is a process of evaluating a student's life experiences and evaluating them for college-level learning. Assessment of prior learning is valuable to the adult learner as it validates knowledge gained outside of the traditional classroom. It can save students time and money by decreasing the number of required courses needed for degree completion.

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## MILITARY

The military now utilizes Joint Services Transcripts (JST) in place of AARTS/SMARTS transcripts. These transcripts are a record of college-level credits earned through military coursework and training during the time of service.

For information on how to request a Joint Services Transcript, visit the American Council on Education website at: [acenet.edu/higher-education/topics/Pages/Transcript-Services.aspx](https://acenet.edu/higher-education/topics/Pages/Transcript-Services.aspx).

## SUBJECT MATTER/PROFICIENCY EXAMS

Credit from certain national proficiency exams are accepted at Eastern Illinois University. These exams test mastery of college-level material. Before taking any exam, please work with your BGS academic advisor to ensure these exams will reduce remaining degree requirements.

## EIU ACCEPTS TEST RESULTS FROM:

**CLEP:** [clep.collegeboard.org](https://clep.collegeboard.org)

**DSST:** [getcollegecredit.com](https://getcollegecredit.com)

**UEXCEL (Excelsior):** [excelsior.edu/exams](https://excelsior.edu/exams)

## PRIOR LEARNING PORTFOLIO

Students admitted in the B.A. in General Studies Degree Program who believe they have gained college-level learning outside the formal classroom, through experiences such as work and community service, are encouraged to develop a prior learning portfolio, whereby they will equate their knowledge to content taught through EIU courses. Students are required to complete an online course, BGS 3001 BGS Prior Learning Portfolio. This is a 3 semester hour, upper division course. With successful completion of this course, students will not only have 3 hours towards their upper division requirement, students will also have a completed portfolio that can be submitted for evaluation. EIU faculty members review the portfolio and determine a credit award based on the learning that is demonstrated in the prior learning portfolio.

## BGS DEGREE PROGRAM

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