



The presence of past learning in building brighter futures: a student-level perspective of CPL's impact

BACKGROUND

U.S. Navy veteran Kyle Salquist's military learning experiences included formal training courses and the performance of his duties as an electronics technician. Following his service in the Navy, Kyle worked as a building controls technician. Kyle's military and subsequent civilian professional experience accorded him extensive knowledge in building controls, but he wanted to pursue a degree to further his access to rewarding clean energy career pathways. Kyle also sought an educational program that would use GI Bill funding efficiently so he could preserve funds for subsequent education. In 2021, Kyle enrolled in SSC's MOET, Multi-Occupation in Engineering and Technology Associate of Applied Science – transfer degree (A.A.S.-T) program, co-enrolling in the Bachelor of Applied Science in Sustainable Building Science Technology.

CHALLENGES

Although Kyle was eligible for education benefits under the GI Bill, a traditionally paced degree pathway relying solely on classroom credit threatened to exhaust funding limits.

RISKS

Without CPL credits, Kyle's postsecondary educational pathway would have expended more time and financial resources. This could have delayed or derailed Kyle's plans for career-empowering completion.

APPROACH

Although Kyle had a general awareness of CPL through military recruiting messaging, he didn't realize there was an opportunity for him to use CPL to further a career in an industry he is passionate about until an SSC professor told him about the MOET program. SSC reviewed Kyle's Joint Services Transcripts, which included courses such as Electronics Technician Apprenticeship Training, Electronics Technician A School, and Microminiature Electronics Repair. Kyle was also able to use experiential learning from his performance as a seaman and electronics technician to earn CPL as well.

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\$4,200+

CPL-generated savings for Kyle, allowing his GI Bill benefits to go further

20

CPL credits earned via on-the-job experience crosswalk

36

CPL credits earned via training crosswalk

SOLUTION

SSC crosswalked his ACE-recommended credits for the military courses he took to MOET 201, 202, and 203 courses. This furnished him with the maximum allowable (36) of CPL credits via military or employer training. SSC also crosswalked his ACE-recommended credits for on the job experience to earn the maximum of 20 credits of CPL via military service. Attending part time with 12 credit hours per quarter, Kyle received his MOET A.A.S. -T. in one year and completed his B.A.S. this year.

SUCCESS

- **Getting the most out of the GI Bill:** Thanks to receiving the maximum of 56 CPL credits, Kyle was able to accelerate his completion of an associate and bachelor's degree, not only building directly from his service experience, but positioning him to capture additional educational opportunities under the GI Bill.
- **Clearing the way to career pathways:** Kyle used the MOET and SBST programs to complement his strong background in building controls with competencies in project management and team leadership. His performance in the program led directly to his promotion from a controls technician to a building performance engineer.
- **Growing awareness of CPL's benefits:** Much as Kyle learned about CPL opportunities from a mentoring professor, Kyle is encouraging many of his colleagues to explore the MOET program, and his employer is beginning to invest in the SBST program.



“Without the credits for prior learning, my education path could have taken much longer, to the point where my GI Bill may not have covered the full cost of my education. With CPL applied and my degree fast tracked, I was able to finish my degree with GI Bill funds left over for future education.”

*Kyle Salquist,
South Seattle College adult learner*



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