



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

BACKGROUND

Rebecca Silva is an adult learner who had gained employment experience and training with several manufacturing companies prior to enrolling with South Seattle College. In 2021, she entered SSC's MOET, Multi-Occupation in Engineering and Technology Associate of Applied Science - transfer degree (A.A.S.-T) program. Rebecca wanted to apply her prior learning and work experience toward an associate degree to accelerate the timeline for career advancement opportunities with her current employer, where she was working full time. However, as is true of most adult learners, there were multiple demands on Rebecca's financial resources and on the limited time she had available outside of work.

CHALLENGES

Although Rebecca's job experience would deliver the maximum CPL credits via the A.A.S.-T's portfolio review process, on the surface, her catalogue of corporate training didn't provide an avenue to full credit via the program's largest source of CPL: military or workplace training.

RISKS

Without the CPL credits, her pathway to degree completion would have been complicated by additional time and financial commitments. In addition to burdening Rebecca's already-busy schedule with greater demands on her time, the absence of CPL would increase the costs and diminish the impact of the [Three Affiliated Tribes Education Grant Program](#), which covered Rebecca's program costs.

APPROACH

SSC advisors evaluated Rebecca's complete work experience to create an individualized plan that would meet the training requirements of the degree. They correlated her corporate training and some previous college coursework she had completed to A.A.S.-T CPL crosswalk courses.

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\$4,200+

CPL-generated savings for Rebecca and the Three Affiliated Tribes

20

CPL credits earned via portfolio review

36

CPL credits earned via training crosswalk

SOLUTION

SSC's suite of crosswalk courses, which include occupational safety/health; engineering and technology; and operations and management, is the vehicle by which students' industry and military training and learning outcomes are evaluated and qualified for college credit. Through this crosswalk process, Rebecca received the maximum of 36 CPL credits paving the way for her completion of the accelerated degree program.

SUCCESS

- **Quality customization at a quickened pace:** Rebecca's advisors identified and integrated a total of 56 CPL credits within an accelerated and personalized educational plan. Honed to complement her existing qualifications, the A.A.S.-T developed new competencies needed for career progression in operations and management in manufacturing environments.
- **Two-way junction between learning and work:** Rebecca's A.A.S.-T is both a building block for career advancement and additional degree completion.
- **A vibrant education-employment ecosystem:** Rebecca had recently worked for several manufacturing companies, completing training in root cause analysis, scrap parts in RMS, general ledger dimensions, customer relation management, forklift safety, and over 170 additional training hours. By documenting, assessing, and crosswalking this training for CPL credit, SSC is forging and sustaining organic bonds among its programs of study and industry partners.



“I can use my previous work history and my previous training to obtain a degree faster, so I'm not investing as much financial resources to get my degree.”

*Rebecca Silva,
South Seattle College adult learner*



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