

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 12-0209	Date: June 12, 2012
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Massey; Fields Sen. Bacon; King K.	Bill Status: Signed into Law
	Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

TITLE: CONCERNING CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: The bill was signed into law by the Governor on March 24, 2012, and takes effect August 8, 2012, assuming no referendum petition is filed.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013: None.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill is recommended by the *Educational Success Task Force*. Beginning in the 2013-14 academic year, this bill requires that public institutions of higher education develop a policy or program to determine academic credit for a student's prior learning. Prior learning could include work experience, military service, community involvement, or independent study.

Background

Prior learning assessment (PLA) is the process by which an institution of higher education evaluates for academic credit the college-level knowledge and skills an individual has gained outside the classroom. Common methods of PLA include the evaluation of student portfolios, formal documentation of corporate and military training, standard credit recommendation guides, standard examinations such as those in advanced placement programs, or customized assessments developed by individual schools.

Students seeking credit for prior experience can pay private companies to conduct PLA and to assist the student in petitioning a school to accept the experience for credit, but individual schools still make the final decision; students are not guaranteed that the experience will be accepted. There is no common statewide process or credit guide currently in use by state schools; however, many schools, including community colleges, allow students to test out of certain basic requirements through the use of assessments.

State Expenditures

Most state institutions of higher education have an existing PLA process. For these schools, the bill has no fiscal impact, as they are already compliant. For any school that does not have an existing process, some effort must be made to offer PLA to students; however, since many models exist for creating a program, this effort is anticipated to be small, and can be accomplished with existing resources.

Departments Contacted

Higher Education