



Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation

MEMORANDUM TO PRESIDENTS | VOL. 26 NO. 3 | JULY 21, 2026



Context & Purpose

MTP Vol 26 No. 3 provides continued focus on expanding CPL across SUNY

- Additional guidance on [Resolution 2023-08 — Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation Policy](#)
- New guidance on [Resolution 2026-51](#) — consistent systemwide standards for AP and IB credit
- Addendum to prior guidance (2024 MTP Vol. 24 No. 1; 2025 MTP Vol. 25 No. 3)



Key Deadlines & Timeline

August 2026	System Administration sent CPL inventory reporting template to each Chief Academic Officer
Fall 2026	Campuses review AP/IB credit policies through shared governance bodies
January 15, 2027	Campus status report due — includes plan, 2025-2026 inventory, policy submission, and presidential attestation
June 30, 2027	All AP/IB credit policies must be adopted



Updated Reporting Requirements

By January 15, 2027, each campus must submit a status report on its 2025 campus plan via an online form provided by System Administration. The report includes five components:

Targeted Expansion	Service-Based CPL	Proactive Identification	CPL Inventory	Policy Submission
Plan to expand CPL in 3 priority areas with measurable 3-year goals	Strategies to award credit for community-based service learning (City Year, AmeriCorps)	Campus-led identification of CPL- eligible students at admissions & onboarding	Comprehensive inventory of CPL credit awarded in AY 2025-2026 with trend analysis	Current campus policies and procedures with summary of any changes

Plus: Presidential Attestation endorsing the campus plan and confirming shared governance compliance



Targeted Expansion of CPL

Each campus plan must identify how it will expand CPL opportunities in the following priority areas:

➤ **Military Education & Training**

- Expand credit for military education, occupations, and training including ACE Military Guide recommendations

➤ **Industry Certifications, Apprenticeships, or Related Employer-Recognized Credentials**

- Recognize employer-recognized credentials, apprenticeships (including labor union partnerships) leading to upward mobility

➤ **Standardized Published Exams**

- Including but not limited to Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations

➤ **Additional Campus Priority Areas**

- Any other campus-defined priorities as applicable

Plans must include measurable goals: projected increases in CPL credit awards and number of students receiving credit over a three-year period starting AY 2027-2028.



Targeted Expansion Strategies

Process & Procedure Improvements

Reduce barriers, improve efficiency, ensure timely and consistent CPL evaluation and awarding

Industry & Employer Partnerships

Develop partnerships with industry, employers, labor organizations for credential recognition

Military Credit Pathways

ACE Military Guide, military occupational specialty evaluation, veteran outreach, veteran support integration

Marketing & Student Outreach

Increase awareness through recruitment, admissions, advising, and enrollment communications

Experiential Learning to Credit

Strengthen connections among academic programs, career development, internships, and applied learning

Additional Campus-Defined

Faculty engagement, technology solutions, non-credit to credit pathway alignment; identify where SUNY can support

Campuses must follow shared governance processes ensuring inclusion of Academic Affairs, Career Services, Enrollment Management, Registrar, Veteran & Military Affairs, and Workforce Development.



Service-Based CPL & Proactive Identification

Service-based CPL

- Award credit for college-level learning through structured community-based service
- At minimum: implement NCCRS credit recommendation for City Year program
- May include evaluation of AmeriCorps and other formally organized service-learning programs
- Demonstrate aligned learning outcomes and competencies

Proactive Identification

- Campus — not the student — bears primary responsibility for identifying CPL opportunities
- Applies to prospective, newly admitted, and transfer students
- Includes proactive identification of military education, training, and occupational experience
- Also includes national service programs (AmeriCorps, City Year)
- Must be integrated into admissions, onboarding, advising, veteran services, and student success



CPL Inventory & Policy Submission

CPL Inventory & Analysis

- Comprehensive inventory of CPL credit awarded during AY 2025-2026
- Reporting template sent by Sep 1, 2026 — includes prior year data (2023-24, 2024-25)
- Review prior years and provide any necessary adjustments
- Provide comparative trend analysis relative to prior years
- Explain significant increases or decreases (policy changes, enrollment patterns, etc.)

Campus Policy & Procedure Submission

- Submit full, current campus policy and any associated procedures or guidelines
- Clearly indicate whether changes have been made since Dec 31, 2025 submission
- If changes were made, provide a summary of those changes



AP & IB Credit: New Systemwide Standards

Beginning Fall 2026, each campus - through its established shared governance process - must review and, as appropriate, reaffirm, revise, or establish policies to align with [Resolution 2026-51](#) policy for AP & IB credit. All policies must be adopted by June 30, 2027.

AP Minimum Score

3

Advanced Placement examinations

IB Minimum Score

4

IB Higher Level (HL) examinations

Credit may be applied toward:

- Specific course equivalencies
- General education requirements
- Major or program requirements
- Elective credit - Where scores meet thresholds but do not align with a specific course, campuses shall award elective credit wherever practicable



Presidential Attestation

Each campus report must include a presidential attestation confirming:

Active Endorsement

President formally endorses and supports the CPL expansion plan, promotes implementation, allocates resources, and encourages intra-campus collaboration

Shared Governance

The campus plan and any new or revised policy has been developed through appropriate shared governance processes

Resolution 2023-08 Compliance

Policies adhere to SUNY Board of Trustees Resolution 2023-08, including the June 2, 2026 AP/IB addendum

Seamless Transfer Alignment

Policy adheres to SUNY policy 2012-089 on Seamless Transfer Requirements (MTP Vol. 13, No. 3)

Fee Compliance

Fees established per SUNY Policies 2023-8 and 7804 — evaluation fees based on services performed, not on the amount of credit awarded



Links to Status Report Documents

Credit for Prior Learning

The State University of New York (SUNY) policy on the Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation establishes a systemwide framework for recognizing verifiable college-level learning acquired outside registered credit-bearing courses, a practice also referred to as prior learning assessment (PLA) or credit for prior learning (CPL). SUNY initially issued the Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation policy in 1976, one of the first university systems in the country to formally adopt this type of assessment.

The 2023 policy revision supersedes the original and expands the types of verifiable college-level learning to be recognized, including, but not limited to: performance on standardized published exams; military education and training; professional and industry certifications and licenses or other credentials; non-credit and continuing education study; on-the-job training/education; and work experience.

The revised policy affirms that the award of credit by evaluation promotes access and success in higher education by reducing time to degree, lowering costs, supporting accurate student placement, and contributing to improved retention and graduation outcomes. In recognition of persistent gaps in student awareness—particularly among low-income and underrepresented populations—the policy further emphasizes the obligation of institutions to ensure clear communication and outreach regarding the availability and benefits of such credit.



[Links to all reporting documents](#)

 [Policy Resources](#)

 [Status Report – Due January 15, 2027](#)

 [Training Resources for Campuses](#)



Upcoming CAEL Workshops Fall 2026

Workshop	Workshop Date(s)	Time (EST)
Assessing Prior Learning	September 29 and October 13	9am - 1pm
Process/Student Journey Mapping Workshop (multi-campus)	October 1, 15 & 29	1pm - 3pm
CPL and the Military-Connected Student	September 17 and 24	9am - 1pm
Crosswalking Employer Training to College Credit	October 7 and 14	12:30pm - 4:30pm
How to Find and Inspire Adults to Enroll	October 19 and 26	1pm - 4pm

[Link to Course Descriptions and Registration](#)



Questions?