

STUDENT INFORMATION ON **LIFE EXPERIENCE CREDIT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

Life Experience Credit Assessment is designed to offer Jamestown Community College students college credit for relevant life experience learnings. Traditionally, college credits are earned in formal classrooms within the academic semester. Jamestown Community College believes learning that approximates that of post-secondary education is also available through "extra-institutional" life experiences such as work duties, trainings, seminars, and practice of a profession or activity. It is the purpose of the Credit Life Experience Assessment Program to help individuals focus on their life learnings and, if appropriate, translate them into college credit.

Individuals who are interested in having their life experiences assessed should take the following steps:

1. Arrange for a personal interview with either an Olean counselor or Ron Turak, coordinator of the Life Experience Credit Assessment program, to determine the areas of life experience to be assessed, and the advisability of seeking credit. This interview will also help the individual determine how his/her life experience credit may or may not relate to short or long-term educational goals.

Alternate methods of accumulating credit will also be explored, such as: the College Level Examination Program, independent study, and credit for military training.

2. If appropriate, the individual will develop a portfolio for each area to be assessed which includes documentation of his/her learnings. The portfolio will be submitted to Ron Turak upon completion. (See attached Suggestions for Development of Life Experience Portfolio.)
3. The portfolio will be sent to the department in the college most allied with the area to be evaluated. A faculty evaluator in that department will review the portfolio and determine applicable credit. The portfolio is then returned to the Counseling and Career Development Center for permanent filing.
4. The registrar's office will be notified of the credit award and the credit will be posted on the student's transcript in the manner that most clearly benefits the student's degree program.
5. The student will be notified of his/her credit assessment and receive a bill.
6. All life experience credit requests are charged a non-refundable \$25 administrative fee. For each portfolio submitted to faculty for review, there will be an additional charge of \$50. This additional charge is levied regardless of the outcome of the request. In addition, a fee of one-third of the current per credit tuition rate in effect at the time of the evaluation will be charged for each credit awarded.
7. Life Experience Credit may or may not be transferable. If the student plans on continuing his/her education at another school, that school should be contacted to find out what their policy is on credit for experiential learning.

For additional information concerning Life Experience Credit Assessment, please contact:

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