

4. Prior Learning Assessment and Military Credit .....Chuck Gross

**Situation:** Status of the Prior Learning Assessment and Military Credit Program, and a progress report on efforts to meet requirements of Senate Bill 761.

**Background:** UNC GA is committed to recruiting, retaining, and graduating students who have some college credit but no degree. Awarding credit for learning that has occurred outside of the traditional classroom (e.g., corporate/military training and occupational experience) is a proven and effective way to meet these goals. The process of awarding credit for prior learning (CPL), which is typically accomplished via portfolio assessment, examination, articulation agreement, or third party recommendation, can be carried out in a way that maintains academic quality and integrity, and that shortens degree completion time—research indicates that students who have been granted credit for prior learning graduate at significantly higher rates than those who have not been granted such credit. While the practice of awarding credit for prior learning is commonly practiced by many “for profit” universities, current CPL practices at UNC system institutions vary widely.

**Assessment:** Senate Bill 761 requires the UNC Board of Governors and the State Board of Community Colleges to work together to ensure that college credits are uniformly granted to students with military training. To reach this goal, leaders from both systems have formed a joint Military Credit Advisory Council (MCAC). This council has established a solid framework for meeting all milestones outlined in its legislatively-mandated strategic plan. More specifically, this council is ready to convene panels comprised of faculty members from both the UNC and NCCC systems for the purpose of evaluating academic areas that are high priority for veteran students. Progress made by the MCAC in the area of credit for military training and experience will be used to advance the greater overall Prior Learning Assessment effort in the UNC system.

**Action:** This is for Information Only.