

# Connecticut Health & Life Science Career Initiative

Receive Academic Credit For What You  
Already Know



# CONNECTICUT HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES CAREER INITIATIVE



- The Health and Life Sciences Career Initiative (HL-SCI) is a three-year federally-funded program.
- The program seeks to prepare unemployed or underemployed individuals (including veterans, trade adjustment assistance impacted workers, dislocated workers and others) for careers in the health and life sciences.

# How Adults Learn



**Adults learn what we want or need to know.**

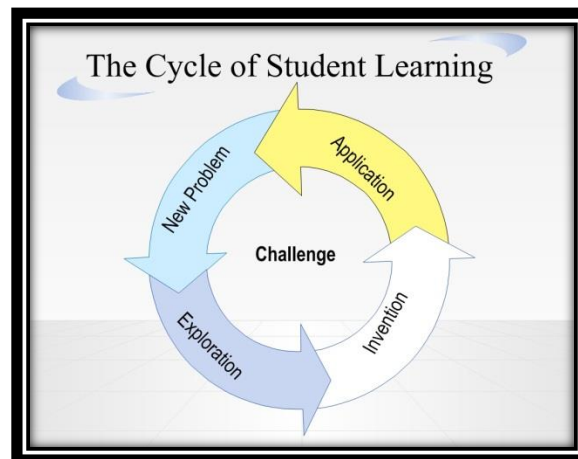
We are self motivated and learn in many ways:

- \* Internet research
- \* Reading books
- \* Enrolling in workshops
- \* Attending meetings
- \* Attending lectures and discussions

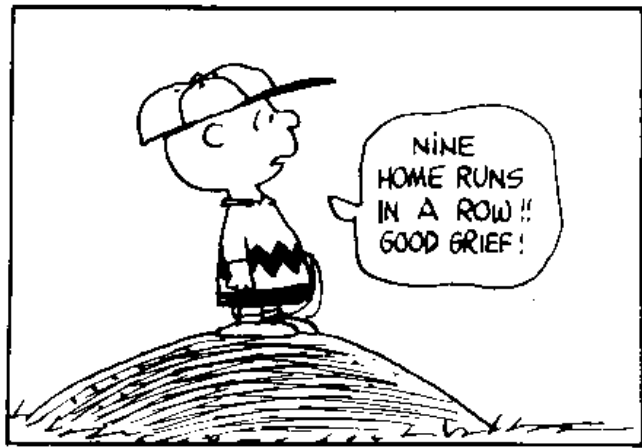
# College Level Learning Goes Beyond College Courses



- \* As adults we frequently learn college level material without setting foot in a classroom
- \* Often new challenges arise in our lives and to face these challenges we either want or need to learn



# What You Want To Know



- \* If you volunteered to coach a youth baseball league you might:
  - \* Work hard to learn coaching techniques
  - \* Become certified in first aid/ CPR
  - \* Research the baseball league rules
  - \* Research baseball strategies and drills

# What You Need To Know



"How do you know I have a learning disability?  
— Maybe you have a *teaching* disability!"

- \* If your child were diagnosed with a learning or physical disability you might:
  - \* Research the disability on the internet
  - \* Buy books on the disability
  - \* Enroll in workshops offered by non-profit groups
  - \* Attend support group meetings
  - \* Attend lectures from experts

# What You Want To Know



\* If you became fascinated with Italian cuisine and culture you might:

- \* Enroll in Italian cooking classes
- \* Research Italian history
- \* Learn Italian
- \* Visit Italy
- \* Buy magazines in Italian



# What You Need To Know



- \* If you became a caregiver to an aging relative you might:
  - \* Research their medical conditions and medications
  - \* Read books about specific medical conditions
  - \* Enroll in health workshops
  - \* Attend support groups for caregivers
  - \* Take cooking classes to learn to prepare more nutritious meals



# How To Earn College Credit



## Assessment: THE KEY TO EARNING CREDIT

To receive academic credit you must:

1. Identify and be able to describe what you have learned.
2. Prove what you have learned is at a level equivalent to the breadth and depth of a college course.



# Different Types Of Assessment



- \* *Standardized Tests*
- \* *Credit by Exam*
- \* *Prior Learning Portfolios*
- \* *Credit for Previously Evaluated Non-credit Programs*



# Standardized Tests



- \* A Standardized test on specific content can be taken through reputable organizations to obtain college credit.
- \* Examples of Standardized Tests:
  - \* Advanced Placement Examinations
  - \* College Level Examination Program
  - \* Graduate Record Examination Subject Tests
  - \* DANTES/DSST

# Credit By Exam



- \* Credit by exam is offered by some colleges and universities for courses in their existing curriculum.
- \* The exams offered vary by institution.



# Prior Learning Portfolios



- \* Prior learning portfolios are created by the student working through the process established by their college.
- \* Student portfolios are evaluated by experts in the field to validate learning acquired in such settings as corporate training programs, vocational schools and hospital based nursing and allied health programs.
- \* Depending on the institution, learning portfolios can challenge specific courses in the curriculum or cover more general content areas.

# Credit For Previously Evaluated Non-Credit Programs



- \* Credit can be awarded for previously evaluated non-credit programs if these programs have been evaluated by faculty members who teach similar material at the college level.
- \* This form of assessment is offered by:
  - \* Connecticut Credit Assessment Program (CCAP)
  - \* The National College Credit Recommendation Service
  - \* The American Council on Education



# Frequently Asked Questions

- \* **Q:** How do I know if it makes sense for me to seek academic credit for my prior learning?



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- \* **Q:** How do I know if it makes sense for me to seek academic credit for my prior learning?
- \* **A:** *The best way to know is to talk to an academic counselor, so give us a call!*





# Frequently Asked Questions

- \* **Q:** I can think of an area that might qualify for credit, but it doesn't relate to the degree program I want to complete. Why would I bother going through the process to receive credit?



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- \* **Q:** I can think of an area that might qualify for credit, but it doesn't relate to the degree program I want to complete. Why would I bother going through the process to receive credit?
- \* **A:** *Most programs require students to take electives. The credit you receive may be able to be used to fulfill elective requirements...saving you both time and money.*



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- \* **Q:** I haven't enrolled in a program yet, do I have to be an enrolled student to receive credit?
- \* **A:** *Not necessarily. Working through Charter Oak State College you can earn credit that can be used at COSC or transferred to another college or university.*



# Frequently Asked Questions

- \* **Q:** Is all credit awarded for prior learning transferable?



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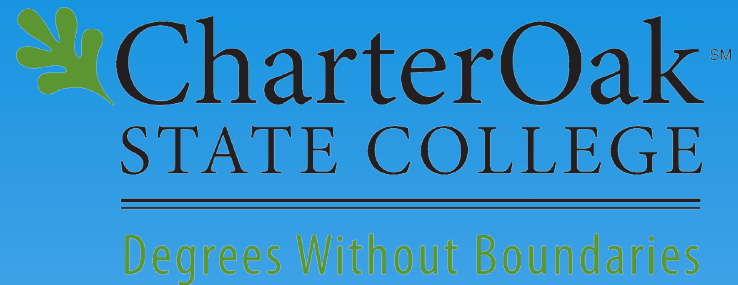
- \* **Q:** Is all credit awarded for prior learning transferable?
- \* **A:** *No matter how credits are earned (prior learning, in the classroom, or online) it is up to the receiving institution to determine which credits will be accepted for transfer. However, students receiving credit through Charter Oak State College have successfully transferred credits to almost every college and university in Connecticut.*

# Connecticut Health & Life Science Career Initiative

This program is being implemented by a consortium of five Connecticut community colleges (Capital, Gateway, Manchester, Middlesex and Norwalk), Charter Oak State College and Eastern Connecticut State University.

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