

Military Prior Learning Assessment (MPLA) Task Force
Meeting of March 30, 2016
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Illinois Board of Higher Education
1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza,
Suite 333
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1377

1. Meeting introduction and general discussion

Members present:

Adam Tournier, McKendree University
Janet Fontenot, Southwestern Illinois College
Charlotte Warren, Lincoln Land Community College
Kim Eck, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Jeff Newell, Illinois Community College Board
Cynthia Rathunde, City Colleges of Chicago
Arthur Sutton, Task Force Chair, IBHE

Member participating by teleconference:

Senator Pamela Althoff
Representative Jeanne Ives
Amy Sherman, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
Walter Pearson, Loyola University, Chicago
Dan Wellman, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
Kevin Schott, Office of the Fire Marshal

Participants by teleconference:

Meegan Dugan-Basset - Lumina
Alli Bell – HCM Strategists

Illinois Board of Higher Education staff present:

James Applegate, Executive Director
Candace Mueller, Associate Director of External Relations

2. Approval of Task Force notes from February 3, 2016

3. Presentations

Jess Ray, Illinois State University

Discussion on awarding military credit at Illinois State University

Awarding credit from DD214

Student Discharge status related to awarding of credit

Transfer student methods of transferring any credit that would be utilized by students

Joint services transcripts - electronic submission (timing of submission)

Elective credit used towards degree evaluation
Review of specific military training and course
ACE guidelines for military credit review - departmental evaluation
Activity that relates to specific college career and degree programs
Applying policies of transfer and institutional practice
Faculty involvement in the review process
The assessment of degree requirements
Credit toward the 120 hour degree program
Courses that directly match college curriculum -major elected and other course matches
Degree audit requirements (specific course matches and challenges course matches)
Proficiency process
Student advising and student advocacy for military credit in specific program areas
Competencies based on experience and review experience
Consistency in system review (consistency in student review)

Fueling the Study Results:

Students with PLA were more likely to persist and complete compared to their non-PLA counterparts.
Faculty involvement and work to have a deeper understanding alternative credit options
On-line Military guide –tool
Planning additional webinar in summer

General discussion from the group

Competency based pathways
Addressing issues from military students, nontraditional, adults and assessment of experience toward a degree and college credit
Evaluation of student learning from a variety of perspectives work, prior learning and other authorized learning outcomes
Competency based curriculum - issues related to cost, development, accreditation, opportunity and the position of the accreditors the state, and professional regulation
Military training counts crosswalk
MOS review and uniformed approach to assessment
Statewide system
Degree plans and document learning
Experiential learning and policies
Matching of courses related to IAI and other state policy
Issues of completing general education, elective and rounding out
The need for effective advisement address issues for military student understanding
Best practice on credit transfer

Amy Sherman, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning and **Cynthia Rathunde**, City Colleges of Chicago

Discussion on March 10 webinar

Methods of military PLA

Reading the Joint Services Transcript

Developing other training to look at best practices in other states and institutions

CAEL scan of PLA policy

Opportunity to do webinar with other states and ascertain their process

The national conference of State legislatures will have a compilation of the state's work on
MPLA

Types of PLA that have been used and study results

Study results

Students will more likely to persist and complete having some form of PLA

Faculty involvement and work to have a deeper understanding alternative credit options

On-line Military guide –tool

Planning additional webinar in summer

4. Discussion on Senate Bill 2960 from Candace Mueller (group discussion)

Bill introduced by Senator Munoz

Requires all community colleges and public universities to have Joint Services Transcript policy
that will identify a process for college credit awarded

Military courses taken through the armed services being made applicable for review

Discussion of legislation and opportunity for amendment

Review Senate Bill 3305

Institutions developing clear and transparent policies around how they deal with military
credit

Review and comment on the drafting language of the bill

Suggestions made to meet with Senator Munoz on bill

Policies should be more specific and mapped to specific requirements that will address issues

ACE recommendations should be connected to policy

Looking at other state policy as a guide

Developing strategies to get schools to work on things identified in the legislation

Consideration has to be given to the diversity of institutional programs in the development of
these issues

Updating policy to effect change - Illinois Veteran's Grant cited

Written transfer policy - methodology of credit coming into the institution

Helped to make transparency of policy and data as useful and better to those it will serve

Comments more on the assurance of credit being appropriate, standards and institutional
latitude

Discussion on specific programs in the military (example medics) and students sitting for
evaluations and certifications

Transitioning students into programs based on military service area

Pathways to certifications- May 11 training

Accelerated bridge programs

Pathways for veterans

Learning outcomes for service areas - documented training outcomes

Illinois Community College Board working on pilot projects
Transition courses
Discussion on certification, licensure, and vocational outcomes for veterans
Discuss concerns over unfunded mandates.
Recommended that PLA subject-matter experts have the bill vetted before filing.

5. Working groups identified as following:

Defining PLA group (members):

Meegan Dugan Bassett
Walter Pearson
Charlotte Warren
Dan Wellman
Amy Sherman

Business Process Improvement Group (members):

Jess Ray
Kim Eck
Janet Fontenot
Adam Tournier
Kevin Schott
Cynthia Rathunde
Jeff Newell
Dr. Ron Williams

Meeting concluded with plan to have subcommittee meeting prior to the next meeting June 1, 2016