

## Prior Learning Credit Legislative Act – House Bill 966

Bill Summary: The Prior Learning Credit Act can be broken down into three main sections. Towson University's application to the bill is in red.

### I. Academic Credit for Prior Learning Examinations

*It requires each public institution of higher education, on or before October 1, 2022, to develop and implement policies and procedures for awarding academic credit for prior learning examinations; and requiring each public institution of higher education and the Maryland Higher Education Commission to post the policies and procedures on their websites.*

This was already in practice – no changes needed.

### II. AP Exams & CLEP tests

*It further states that institutions must accept a minimum score of 3 on AP Exams and 50 on CLEP tests unless the Chief Academic Officer provides evidence that a higher score is necessary for the student to be successful in a particular course.*

AP Summary: Effective October 1, 2022, Towson University awards credits for AP exams a score of 3, 4, or 5 for all AP courses administered.

CLEP Summary: Effective October 1, 2022, Towson University will award credit for a score of 50 or above for the CLEP exams TU accepts, with one exception - College Composition Modular (ENGL 102).

Towson will continue its current practice regarding:

- CLEP exam for ENGL 102 - this requires a score of 60, plus two essays evaluated by TU English faculty.
- CLEP exams posted on a MD Community College transcript that earned General Education credit at the Community College, will be awarded transfer credit and fulfill a General Education requirement at Towson University, if GenEd has not already been completed. This includes all CLEP exams, not just those accepted by Towson University through the Credit for Prior Learning program.

More information:

AP: <https://www.towson.edu/admissions/undergrad/freshmen/credits/advanced-placement.html>

CLEP: <https://www.towson.edu/registrar/grades/documents/clepchartofcourses.pdf>

Updated December 2023

### III. Annual Reporting

*Lastly it requires us to report annually on the number of students who received credit through AP & CLEP and whether it was applied towards the major or electives. **This chart was submitted separately.***

Towson University Report on Credit for Prior Learning	
START DATE OF INSTITUTION'S ACADEMIC YEAR:	May 31, 2022
END DATE OF INSTITUTION'S ACADEMIC YEAR:	May 23, 2023

The total number of students awarded academic credit for prior learning examinations	886
The total number of academic credits awarded to students for prior learning examinations	9,959
The total number of academic credits awarded to matriculating students for prior learning examinations	5,799
Of the total number of academic credits awarded to matriculating students for prior learning examinations, the number of those credits applied toward major requirements	1,928
Of the total number of academic credits awarded to matriculating students for prior learning examinations, the number of those credits applied to elective requirements	1,161
Of the total number of academic credits awarded to matriculating students for prior learning examinations, the number of those credits applied to general education requirements	767

### IV. Exemptions

**Justifications for exemptions to scores will be sent to the Provost for review and added here:**

#### **CLEP College Composition Modular (ENGL 102)**

*From the TU English Department:* Historically, students with scores in the low 60s on the CLEP exam show some deficiency of writing when they take the Towson essays, therefore we would be very concerned about lowering the passing score to 50. CLEP is a multiple-choice exam which cannot take the place of a writing class without the additional timed essays administered and evaluated by Towson English faculty. We believe a score of 60 on the College Composition Modular Exam and successful completion of two, timed essays represent a **very** minimal substitution for a required 3-unit course. We respectfully request the current requirements remain in place for this CLEP exam.