

## ***Get the most from your life experience***

As you begin your college education, you have a tremendous opportunity to capitalize on what you have learned through personal experience.

The knowledge you attained before coming to MACU can help you shorten the amount of time it takes to complete your degree, and save thousands of dollars.

### **Consider whether you have any of the following:**

- Prior Work Experience
- Vocational Experience
- Ministry Experience
- Volunteer Work Experience
- Community Service Experience
- Travel Experience

Many adults have acquired measurable, college-level learning which can be assessed and applied toward a degree program. Real-world knowledge comes from real-life experience. You may be able to translate what you have learned through work, military service, and community and volunteer activities into undergraduate college credit, saving you time and money as you pursue your education goals.

MACU provides students two different opportunities to earn college level credit for prior learning:

- Credit by Examination
- Credit by Demonstrated Competency (CDC).

### ***Credit by Demonstrated Competency (CDC)***

CDC is college-level credit which is gleaned from numerous learning sources, including workshops, seminars, self-study, noncredit or unaccredited classes, training programs and work experiences.

*“Learning created by the transformation of experience through the process of involvement, perception, and understanding that goes on as we work, play, marry, rear children, pursue hobbies, and develop relationships”*

(Lamdin, 1997).

Adults have had many experiences in life from which learning has taken place. These learning experiences involve both personal and professional development. The goal is to record the documented learning for which the student has validated relevant learning outcomes at the college level. CDC assesses prior learning from sponsored professional training, college-level examinations, military experiences and other experiential learning development.

There are two ways CDC credit may be earned. The first is related solely to Sponsored Professional Training (SPT). The second manner of earning CDC credit is through the writing of Learning Application Essays (LAEs). These essays are written on topics which may be either personal or professional in nature.

### ***How CDC Works***

In order to qualify for Credit by Demonstrated Competency, you will

- First you need to be fully admitted to MACU.
- Enroll in UNIV2503 Professional Development Review, a course that will help you document your life experience and learning. In this course, you will be required to complete a self-assessment process. You will examine prior learning experiences, determine those that are college level, describe your significant learning, skills and knowledge you have attained from those experiences. You will include documentation (such as letters, certificates, reports, products) that will show evidence of the learning you have acquired.
- As you progress through the course you will complete the process to request credit for prior learning.
- You will earn 3 college credits for successfully completing the UNIV2503 course. Enrollment in this course should take place in the very early stages of your association with MACU.
- Together with your CDC Advisor you will agree upon an estimated number of credits to pursue from CDC after the course has concluded (***maximum number of CDC credits is 30***).

# *Prior Learning*

## *Credit by Examination*

Credit by Examination is available through standardized testing for specific subject areas by nationally accepted exam providers. These are CLEP and DSST (Dantes).

## *CLEP*

If you feel you have knowledge and skills that could have been gained in a one or two semester course you may choose to take one of 32 available CLEP exams. A list of exams and testing information is available on the web site

[www.clep.collegeboard.org](http://www.clep.collegeboard.org).

## *DSST*

Exams are targeted primarily toward military personnel. However, anyone is eligible to take any one of the 31 DSST exams offered. The list of exams and testing information is available on the web site

[www.getcollegecredit.com](http://www.getcollegecredit.com)

You may locate testing centers in your area through the web sites listed above.

*Reduce the time it takes to complete a bachelor's degree!*



**Lisa Bell**  
**Director of Prior Learning Assessment**  
**Mid-America Christian University**  
**Office (405)692-3194**  
**[cdc@macu.edu](mailto:cdc@macu.edu)**

**Mid-America**  
**Christian University**

**3500 SE 119<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73120**  
**[www.MACU.edu](http://www.MACU.edu)**