

Learning the Landscape of CPL

Results from the 2024 Survey of CPL
Policies and Practices at US and
Canadian Postsecondary Institution

June 26, 2024



Enhancing Accessibility
and Inclusion: The 2024
Landscape of Credit for
Prior Learning in U.S. and
Canadian Higher
Education

2024

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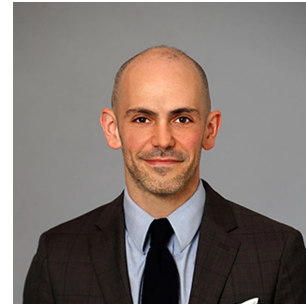
Today's CAEL-AACRAO Webinar



Wendy Kilgore, Senior Director of Research, AACRAO



Allegra Fowler, Executive Director, Center for Prior Learning Recognition, Purdue Global



Wilson Finch, Vice President, Higher Education Initiatives, CAEL



Becky Klein-Collins, VP, Research and Impact, CAEL



Carolyn Swabek, Director of Community Engagement, CAEL



Background on the CPL Institutional Survey

399 U.S. and Canadian undergraduate-serving institutions participated in the survey

Varied institutional characteristics are represented in the sample

- 60% comprehensive institutions
- 24% lower-division only
- 14% undergraduate only
- 61% public
- 95% U.S. institutions

Access, Benefits, Challenges, and General Administration of CPL

- Overall CPL Access in Higher Ed
- Benefits and Challenges
 - Availability of Financial Assistance
- Administrative Practices
 - Staffing
 - Quality Assurance
 - Data tracking
 - Marketing



Defining CPL

Credit for prior learning (CPL): Assessment mechanisms colleges, universities and other education or training providers use to evaluate learning that occurred outside traditional academic environments. Used to grant college credit, certification or advanced standing toward further education or training. It may also be called prior learning assessment (PLA), recognition of prior learning and/or recognition of learning.

Does your institution currently offer any type of credit for prior learning?

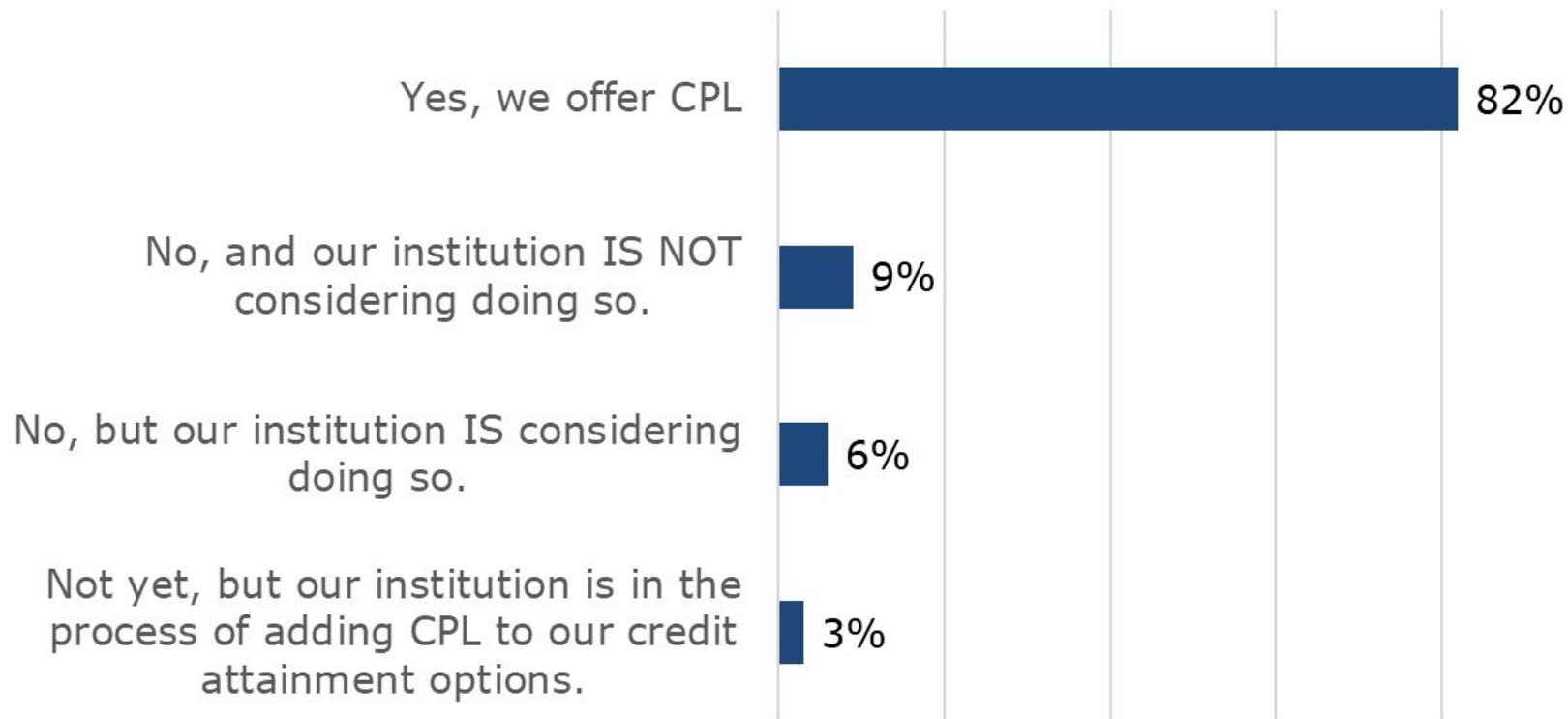


Figure 9: Availability of Financial Assistance by CPL Pathway

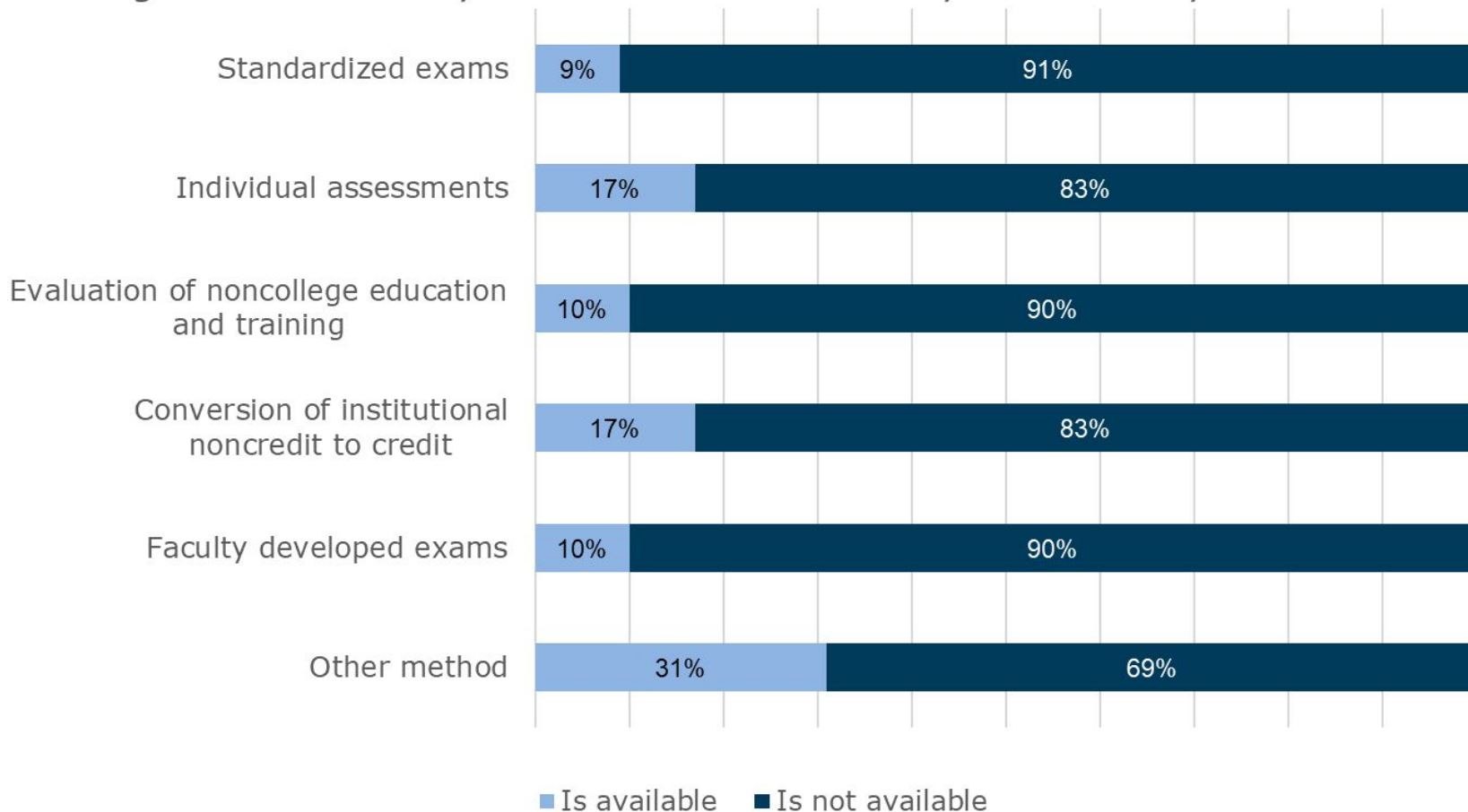


Figure 14: Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Staff, Faculty and/or Administrators Involved in Evaluating CPL on an Annual Basis by Institutional Size

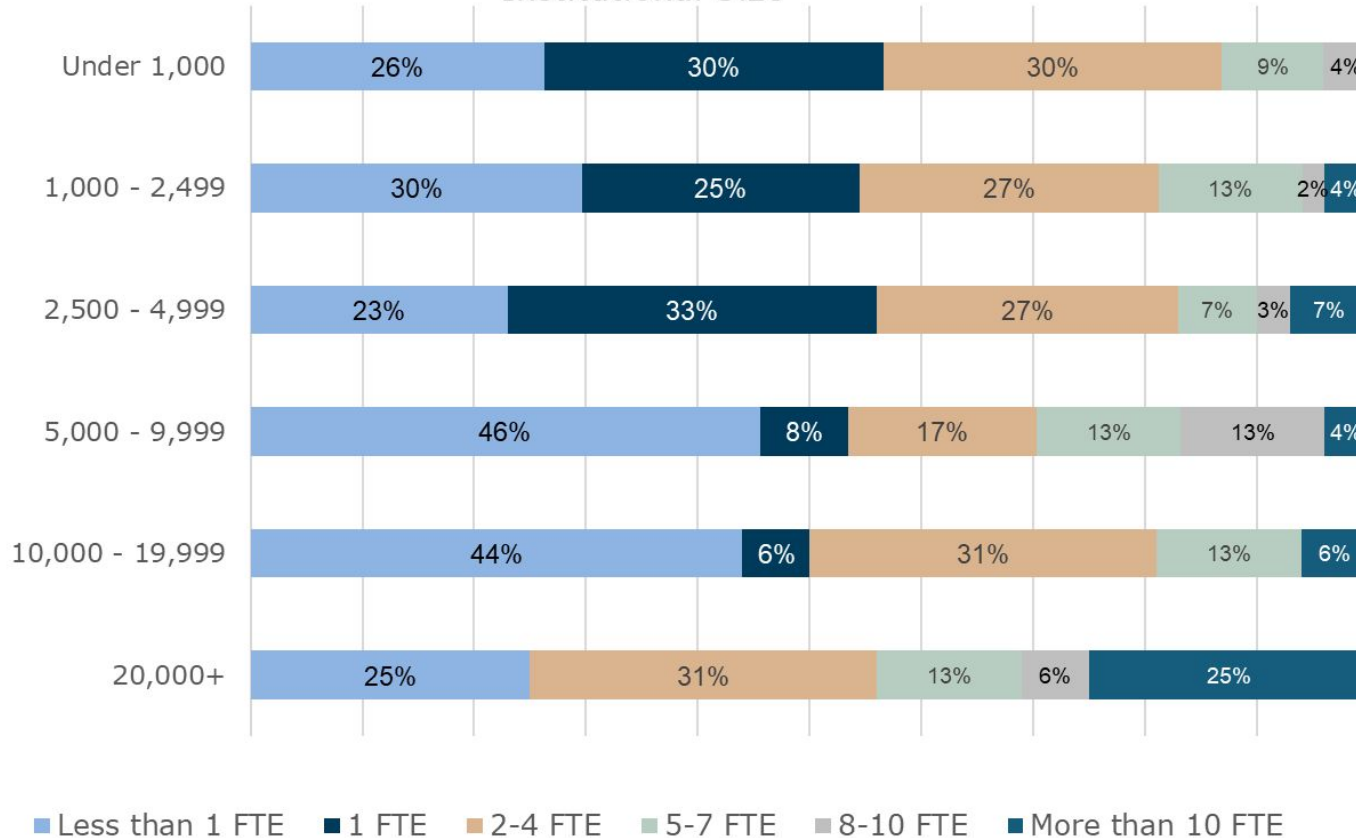


Figure 11: Tracked and Reported CPL outcomes (all that apply)

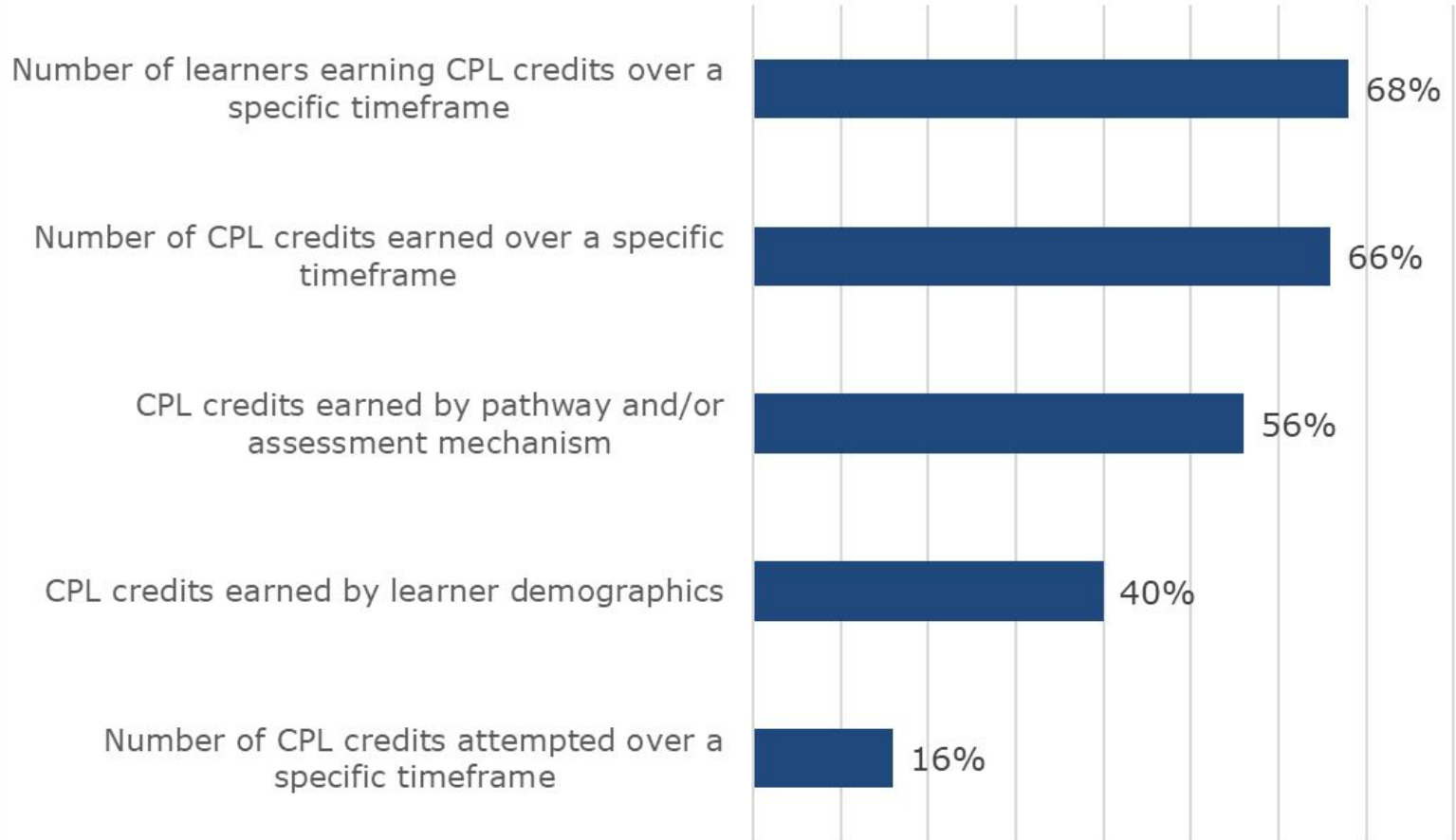
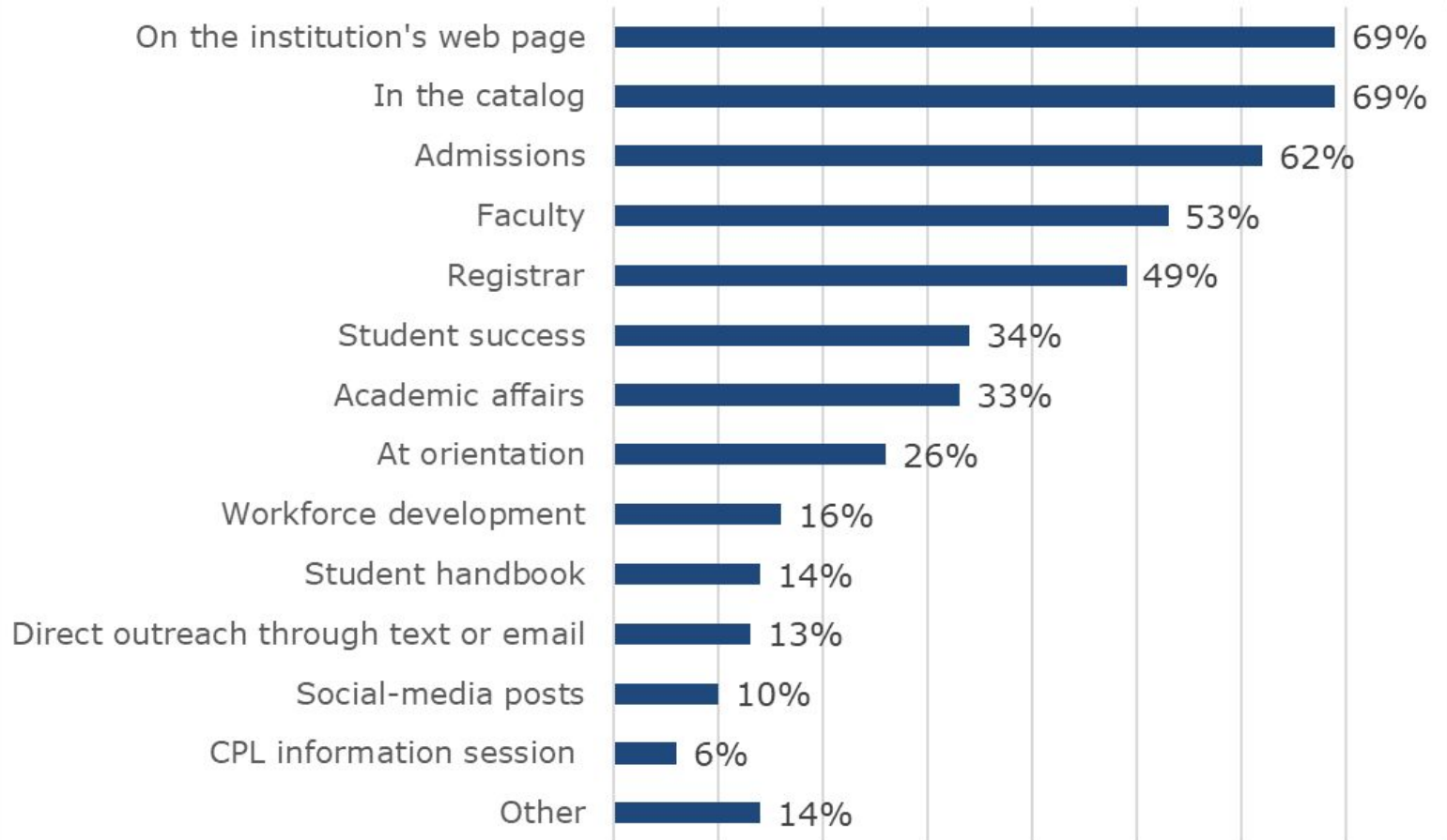


Figure 12: How Learners are Made Aware of CPL Pathways (all that apply)



Applications and Limitations of CPL

- Methods/pathways
- Applying CPL: credential types, credential requirements
- Credit limits
- Transcripts
- Transfer policies, rationale



Figure 2: CPL Pathways Available (all that apply)

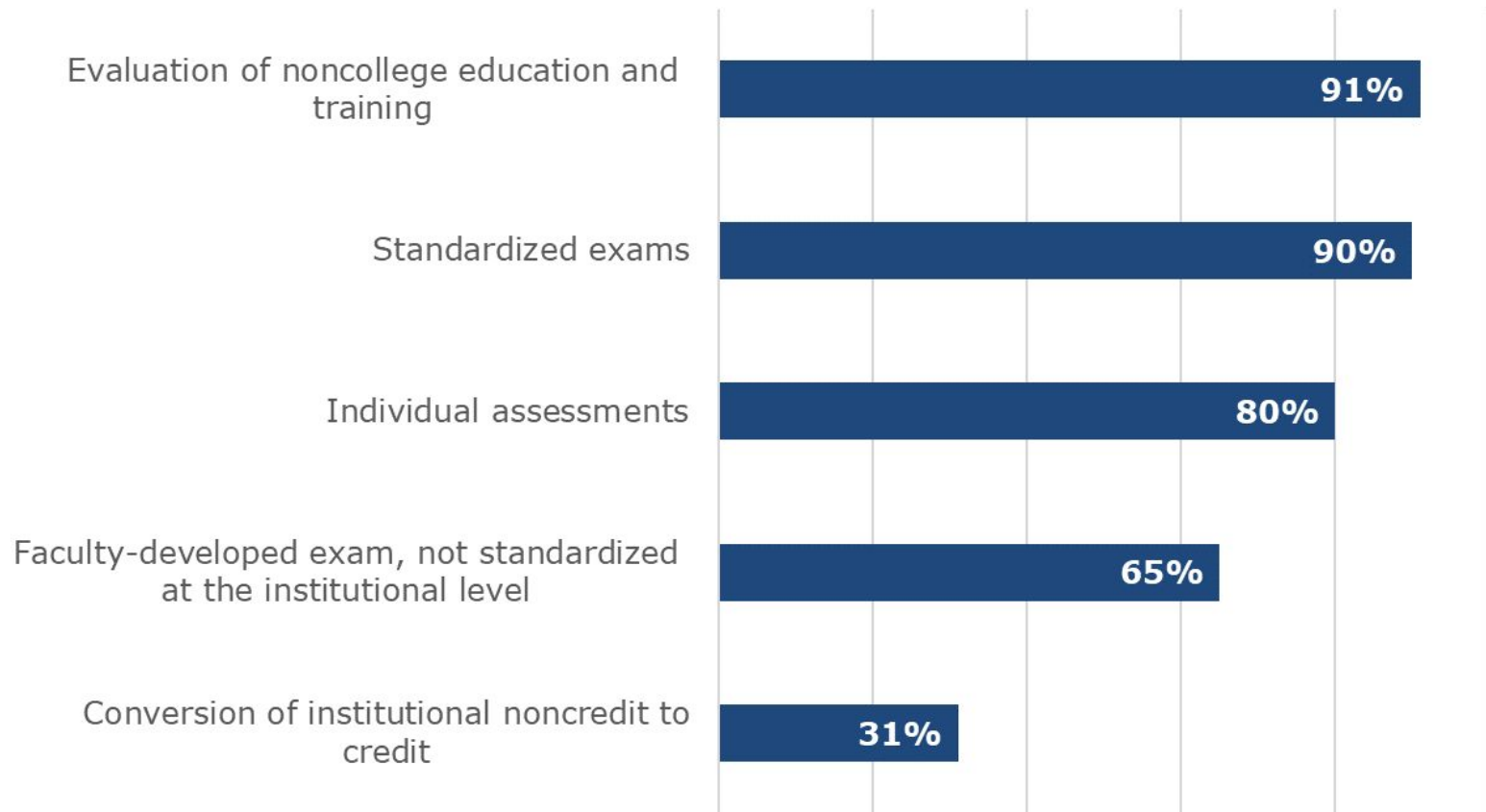
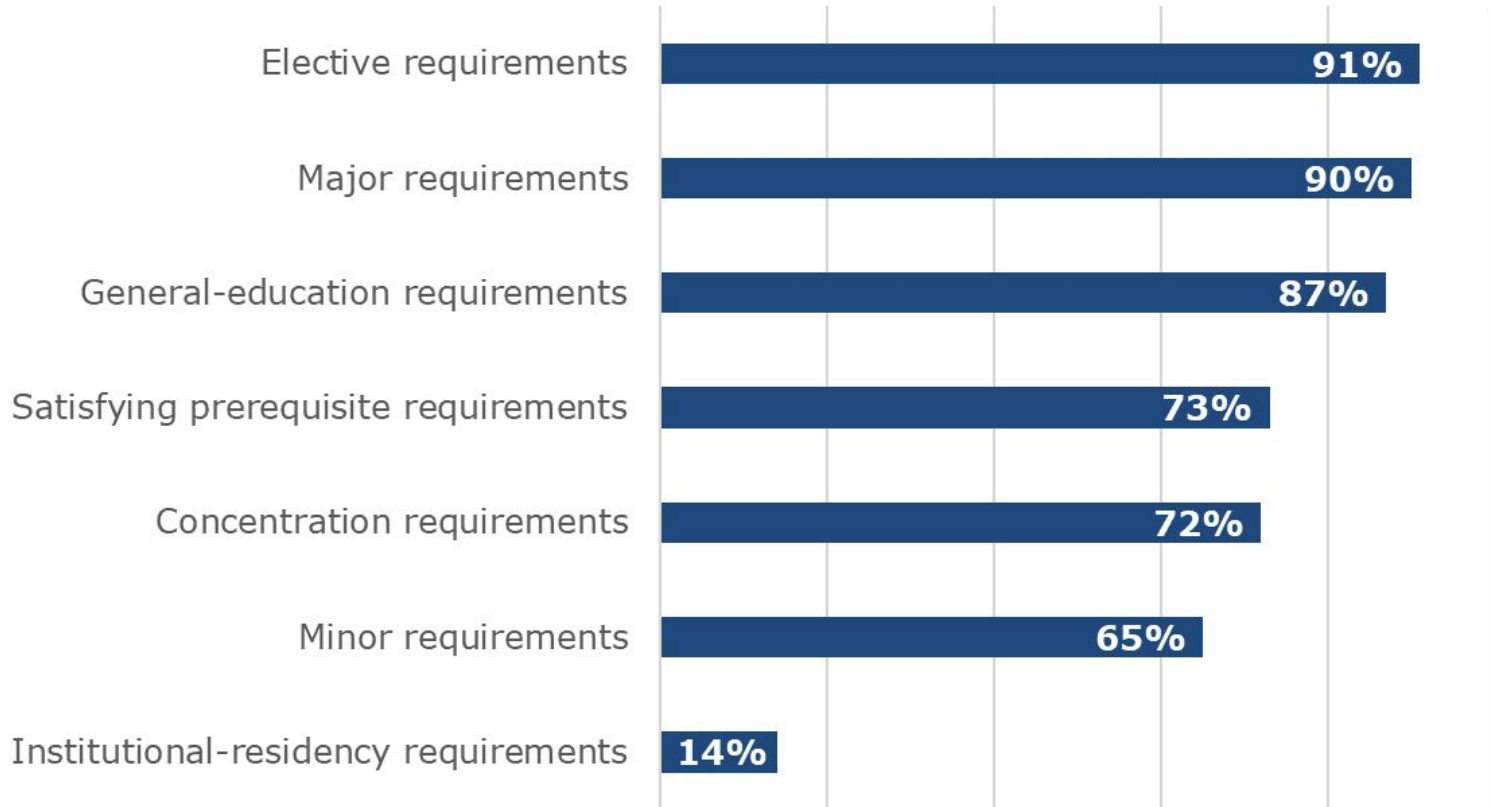


Figure 4: General Applicability of CPL Credits to Program Requirements (all that apply)



86% of institutions record CPL credit on the transcript

How CPL is Recorded (Top Responses)

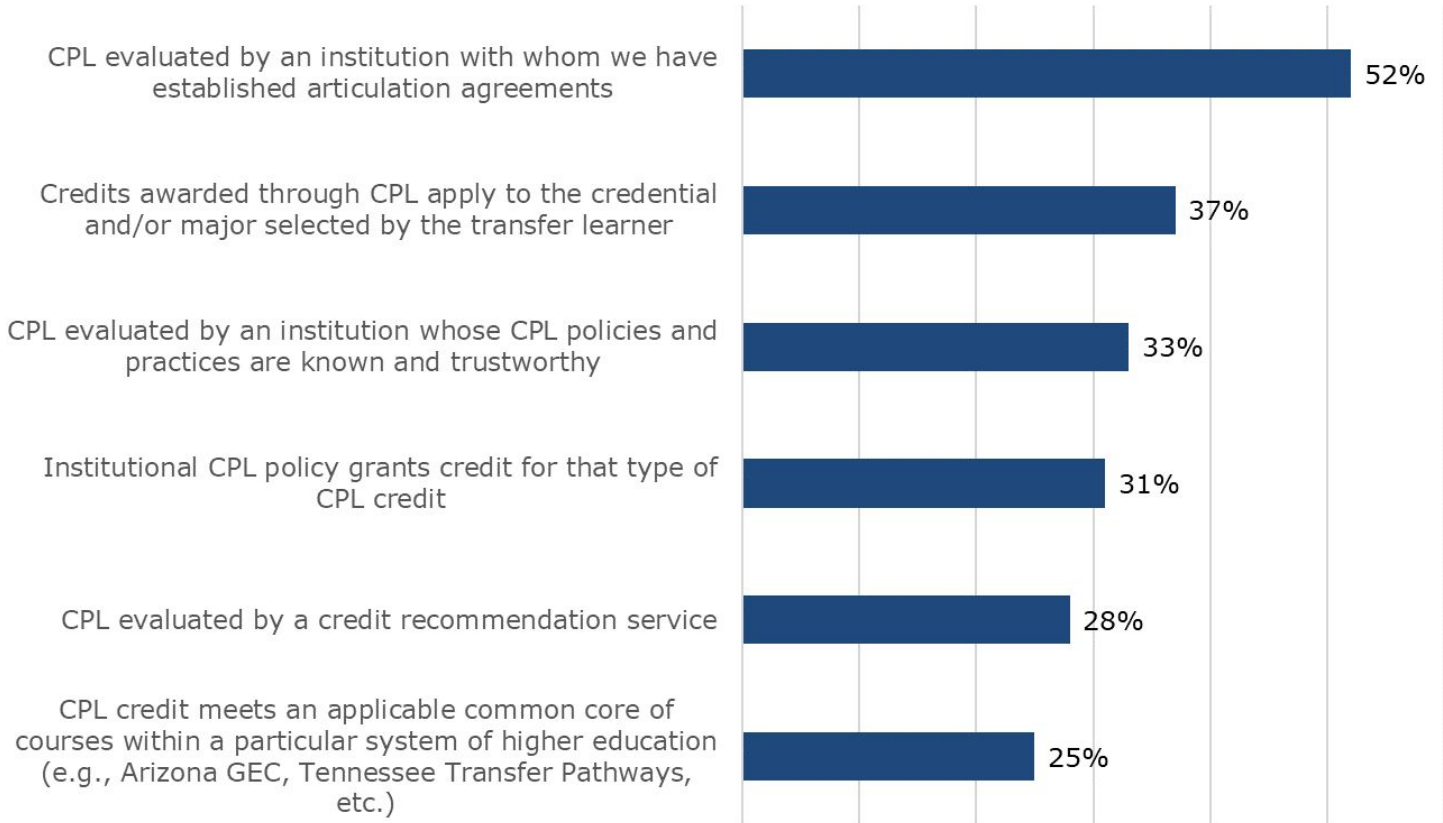
- 54% list the number of CPL credits
- 50% show CPL credit as a specific course with a pass/fail grade
- 31% record CPL as testing or exam credits

54% of institutions do not accept CPL awarded by other colleges or universities in transfer

Reasons for not accepting CPL in transfer

- Concerns about integrity and rigor
- Lack of documentation and verification
- Institutional policy and faculty discretion
- Uncertainty about the transferability and applicability of CPL credit
- Lack of CPL transfer processes
- Accreditation and licensure requirements
- Institutional philosophy and tradition

Figure 21: Conditions Under Which CPL Awarded at Another Institution will be Accepted in Transfer Without Re-evaluation (all that apply)



Using Benchmark Data



Poll Question!

Based on the data presented in the report, which part of your CPL program do you feel is in most need of attention or change?

- Financial aid for CPL
- Staffing
- General policies like credit caps or other limitations
- Transfer policies
- Transcription policies
- Data tracking
- Quality assurance
- Something else....

Discussion and Q&A

CAEL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE



Oct 30 - Nov 1, 2024
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
<https://www.cael.org/cael-conference>

 **cael** | **50** Anniversary Celebration 1974-2024

The logo features the word "cael" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by a vertical line and a large, stylized "50" with a decorative, celebratory font. To the right of the "50" is the text "Anniversary Celebration" in a bold, sans-serif font, with "1974-2024" below it. The entire logo is set against a dark red background with faint, stylized fireworks or starburst patterns.



A month to celebrate and appreciate our incredible community of members around the globe!

- ★ Keynote Speaker
- ★ Member Awards
- ★ Launch of New Benefits
- ★ Networking
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Join CAEL in May or June and receive 10% off any level of membership!

About CAEL

The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) is a national nonprofit working to improve education-to-career pathways for adult learners. We help organizations succeed by providing expertise, resources, and innovative solutions that effectively support adult learners as they navigate on-and off-ramps between education and employment. Learn more at www.cael.org.

About AACRAO

AACRAO is a non-profit, voluntary, professional association working to make higher education more responsive to learners. With a membership of more than 15,000 higher education professionals representing approximately 2,300 institutions in more than 40 countries, the association provides advocacy, research, and policy-based guidance and training to higher education professionals to smooth the path for learners at every stage of their journey.