



# Prior Learning Demystified: How to Earn Academic Credit for Your Experiences



**CMU  
ONLINE**

CENTRAL MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY

# Welcome by Al Zainea

*Executive Director, Academic and Professional Programs*

- **Part 1 - Saving Time**
- **Part 2 - Saving Money**
- **Part 3 - How the Credits Fit**
- **Part 4 - Helpful Resources**



**CMU ONLINE**  
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# Saving



# Time

## What is the Prior Learning Portfolio Program?

- **Written assessments** of what the student has learned and how they have applied it in the workplace or in life.
- **YOUR** portfolio is prepared by **YOU** on **YOUR** schedule. The potential time savings could be 1 – 4 semesters of in class work.
- **Undergraduate students can earn up to 60\* credits** towards select degrees and **graduate students can earn up to 12\* credits** towards select degrees. *\*the potential awards are based on a number of criteria including time on job, dates, competencies etc.*

Not having to spend the time in class to earn credits gives you more time for your jobs, families, other classes or other activities.



This represents a significant **TIME SAVINGS FOR YOU!**



**CENTRAL**  
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# Saving



# Money

- The cost to submit a portfolio is a **low fee of \$125**
- **Undergraduate students pay 77+% LESS** per credit hour and **Graduate students pay 85+% LESS** per credit hour
- 24 undergraduate credits awarded\* would cost approximately **\$2,400 vs. \$9,720\*\***
- 6 graduate credits awarded\* would cost approximately **\$690 vs. \$3,600\*\***

*\*based on the average awarded credits per undergraduate or graduate portfolios*

*\*\* based on current tuition rates for undergraduate and graduate in-state tuition*

***Prior Learning costs per credit hour are: Undergraduate \$110 per credit hour – Graduate \$125 per credit hour***



**CENTRAL**  
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# How Do the Credits Fit



Credits awarded **can be used on select degrees\***. *\*Prior Learning credits may be used on other degree programs but you must check with and get approval from your academic advisor prior to starting a portfolio.*

- **Undergraduate (UNV 297 or UNV 497):**

- Bachelor of Science, Community Development
  - Bachelor of Science, Organizational Leadership
  - Bachelor of Science, Administration
  - \*Electives for other CMU majors

- **Graduate (UNV 697):**

- Master of Science Administration, all concentrations
  - Master of Education, various concentrations

- **5 CMU credits must be taken and posted** on the transcript *prior* to transcribing UNV 297, 497, 697 credits.



**CENTRAL**  
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY





# We Are Here to Help

**YOUR success is OUR success!**

**Phone** – (989) 774-7126

**Email** – [priorlearning@cmich.edu](mailto:priorlearning@cmich.edu)

**Webpage** – <https://www.cmich.edu/academics/innovation-online/resources/credit-for-prior-learning>

**Online Office Hours:** online office hours will be scheduled where you can join others in an online setting to get guidance and address questions pertaining to your portfolio planning and process. Check our webpage for more details.

**Writing Center and Writing Workshops** – as a CMU student, you have access to the Writing Center. You can submit your writings online and they will be reviewed by a Writing Center consultant and returned to you with comments. Check our main Prior Learning webpage for any Writing Workshops that may be scheduled (in person or online). Visit the Writing Center online at <https://www.cmich.edu/academics/colleges/liberal-arts-social-sciences/centers-institutes/writing-center>



**CENTRAL**  
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY