

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO CREDIT FOR PRIOR EXPERIENCE INFORMATION SHEET

In recognition of the fact that intellectual growth can occur in settings other than the classroom, California State University, Chico, has adopted a policy (Executive Memorandum 76-7) under which our students may petition to have their previous non-classroom experiences evaluated for possible academic credit when such experiences have resulted in learning at a level of sophistication comparable to or greater than that provided by normal classroom instruction.

The required documentation to petition for credit for prior experiences is available through the Office of Undergraduate Education website. The petition requires verifiable documentation of the activities/experiences for which credit is being sought, and a clear justification for the academic learning (theoretical or applied learning) that occurred. The student submits the petition and supporting documentation to the Office of Undergraduate Education, where it will be reviewed and forwarded to appropriate faculty for recommendations(s). This process takes 6-8 weeks. Students may be asked by the academic unit(s) reviewing their experiences to take examinations and/or provide further documentation. Recommendations will be returned to the Dean of Undergraduate Education, who will notify the student of the final decision.

The following brief examples may be of help in deciding whether or not one should apply for such an evaluation:

1. Managing a small office would probably not earn credit. If, however, a person managed an office and did extensive reading in office management texts and journals, it might qualify.
2. Working in a child care center would not qualify. Working in such a center under the direction of a professional in this field who conducted seminars and discussions based on prepared reading lists might.
3. Traveling in Europe would not qualify. Collecting and analyzing data relative to crop production while traveling in Europe might.

The key factor is that credit will not be granted for the experience per se, but only for academic learning that took place as a result of or along with the experience.