

Work Experience/Credit for Prior Learning

NDNU's evening programs value the experience that adults with work experience bring to the classroom; indeed, our courses are built upon the expectation that students will bring this experience to the classroom, making learning relevant and helping working professionals to become immediately more effective in the workplace. To that end, NDNU accepts credit for prior learning in a variety of ways; students should work with their academic advisers to determine which best fits their experience and graduation needs. Possible approaches include:

- Examinations that test knowledge obtained in the workplace, in other classrooms, or through life experience. Some of these can be done through external sources, such as CLEP exams, and then transferred to NDNU. CLEP is run through the College Board and testing centers exist in many locations in the vicinity of each of our campuses.
- Each student may take as many as 12 units of lower division "Work Experience" or "Co-op" courses, which give credit to students for work that they are currently doing. We will help you to find these units at a community college, which will save tuition costs.
- Examinations that test knowledge obtained in other settings that match the learning outcomes of particular core or elective courses. These can be done through your advisor or Program Director, who can help you to identify a course to "challenge."
- A "portfolio" system of assessment allows a student to create a portfolio representing the achievement of particular course learning outcomes, which is then evaluated by an external agency and a recommendation made to NDNU as to whether course objectives have been made.

Each of the above options align with our core advising principles:

- 1) That we will help each student to design a graduation plan that represents the most cost-effective route to an NDNU degree and
- 2) That within the context of a degree that is cost-effective, each student should be on the fastest route to graduation.

In other words, if you still need lower division units, we have partnerships with community colleges to help you to find transferable classes at a low cost. We will not recommend an NDNU course if a community college course will substitute.

Our programs are designed to achieve rigorous program outcomes while meeting academic criterion that are designed specifically for the unique learning needs of adult/nontraditionally aged students. We value your experience, your commitment to your education, and your career/personal aspirations and work with each student to create an individualized graduation plan that is affordable and which reflects academic and career goals.