
MILITARY CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

WACRAO 2017 VETERANS CONFERENCE

LESSONS LEARNED



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WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

MILITARY-CONNECTED DEMOGRAPHICS

- Western Technical College District – 6 RLC's
 - Buffalo, Trempealeau, Jackson, Juneau, Monroe, La Crosse, & Vernon counties
- Since 2009 – Served 4800+
- 2016-2017 – Served 896
- Avg GPA – 3.09%
- Retention rate – 84%
- Grad rate – 81.3%
- 60% - over the age of 25
- Majority – full-time

5 STRENGTHS OF MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

- They are already the product of an intense educational experience
- They bring diversity training and experience with diverse perspectives
- They have resilience and are trained problem solvers; some have also received leadership training
- They are working toward a mission and are focused on accomplishing their academic goals
- They are service-oriented, volunteering more frequently than any other student demographic

MILITARY CPL HIGHLIGHTS

- Awarded 1800+ credits
- Introduced Military Years of Service Agreement
- Equivalency to 59 courses college-wide
- Developed 8 program military crosswalks
- Collaborated with Learner Support and Transition – “Seminar In Reflection” portfolio blackboard course
- Military Credit for Prior Learning Assessment Guide
- Awarded: “VETERAN IMPACT AWARD” – Interface Project/TAACCCCT Grant

LESSON #1 – DEVELOP A PROCESS

- Flowchart analysis
- Develop, streamline, and publish
- Inform stakeholders
- Revise - if needed

~ Assessment policies and procedures are the result of inclusive deliberation and are shared with all constituencies

~ Assessment programs are regularly monitored, evaluated and revised to respond to institutional and learner needs

CAEL - The Ten Standards for Assessing Learning (2016).

LESSON #2 –DESIGN & PROMOTE

- Developed a “CPL Checklist” for military learners
- Military “CPL Options” handout
- Marketing efforts
- Outreach to internal/external community members

~ Assessment policies and procedures are the result of inclusive deliberation and are shared with all constituencies

CAEL – The Ten Standards for Assessing Learning (2016).

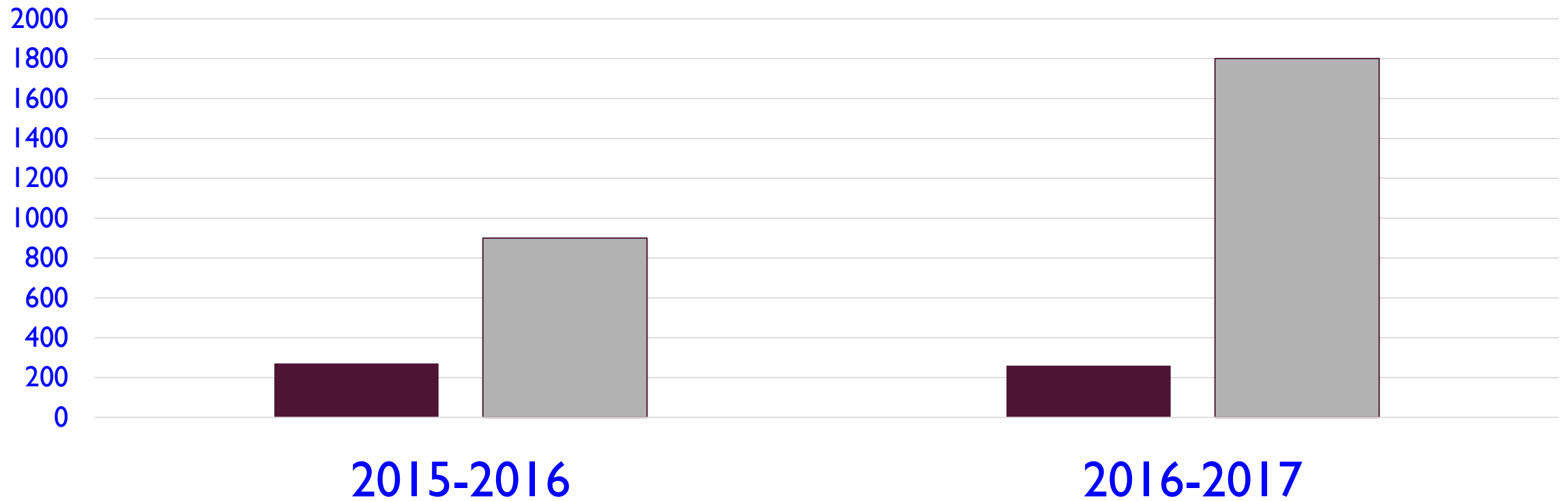
LESSON #3 – STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- I:I Consultations
- Competency review of JST and WIDS
- Military Credit for Prior Learning Student Report

- ~ *Institutions proactively provided guidance and support for learners' full engagement in the assessment process*
- ~ *Credit or competencies are awarded only for evidence of learning, not for experience or time spent*
- ~ *Assessment is integral to learning because it leads to and enables future learning*
- ~ *Assessment is based on criteria for outcomes that are clearly articulated and shared among constituencies*
- ~ *The determination of credit awards and competency levels are made by appropriate subject matter and credentialing experts*

CAEL – The Ten Standards for Assessing Learning (2016).

CONSULTATIONS AND CREDITS



LESSON #4 – FACULTY SUPPORT

- Faculty training and information sharing
- Evaluation & Competency review
- Partnering to build Military Crosswalks
- Military CPL Assessment Guide – New!

~ All practitioners involved in the assessment process pursue and receive adequate training and continuing professional development for the functions they perform

CAEL – The Ten Standards for Assessing Learning (2016).

LESSON #5 – DATA - WIP

- Important to know the areas of study
- The equivalent course for which a student is earning the credit
- When the credit was earned
- How the credit applies to the degree program
- Client Reporting CPL code
- Graduation/retention rates - *pending*

LESSON #6 SYSTEM – WIDE SUPPORT

- Internal
 - Senior Leadership, Academic Deans, Faculty and Stakeholder's
- External
 - WTCS System, CAEL, ACE, and other supporting partners

~ Assessment advances the broader purpose of access and equity for diverse individuals and groups to support their success

CAEL – The Ten Standards for Assessing Learning (2016).

KEY RESULTS

- Achieving consistency in the process and consistency for all students!
- Completion of review & evaluation on a timely basis!
- Establishing a strong network of support!
- Awarding credit!

LOOKING AHEAD ...

- Expansion of Military Crosswalks
- System-wide Military Medic to RN Fast track
- WTCS CPL Reference Guide, MOU, Policies & Procedures, Fees & Transcripts
- SOC – Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges – Degree Network Systems
- MCMC – Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit