

Prior Learning Assessment in Utah Higher Education



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Types of student assessment

Typical classroom
assessment

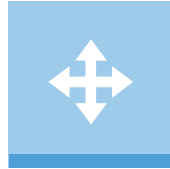
Assessment rubrics in
Utah focus on essential
learning outcomes

Prior Learning
Assessments

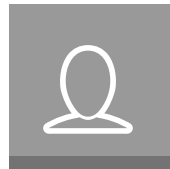


Classroom assessment: Essential Learning Outcomes

Embedded in policy



Utah specific



Agreement among institutions



Framework appropriate to institutions



What is PLA?

- A **set** of established, researched, and validated **methods** for assessing non-collegiate learning for college credit.
- A **process** that allows learners to demonstrate knowledge and skill in a particular field or fields and have that learning evaluated for college credit.



What kinds of learning are evaluated?



On-the-job
learning



Corporate
training



Independent
study—e.g.,
MOOCs



Military
service



Volunteer
service



Why PLA?

28.1%

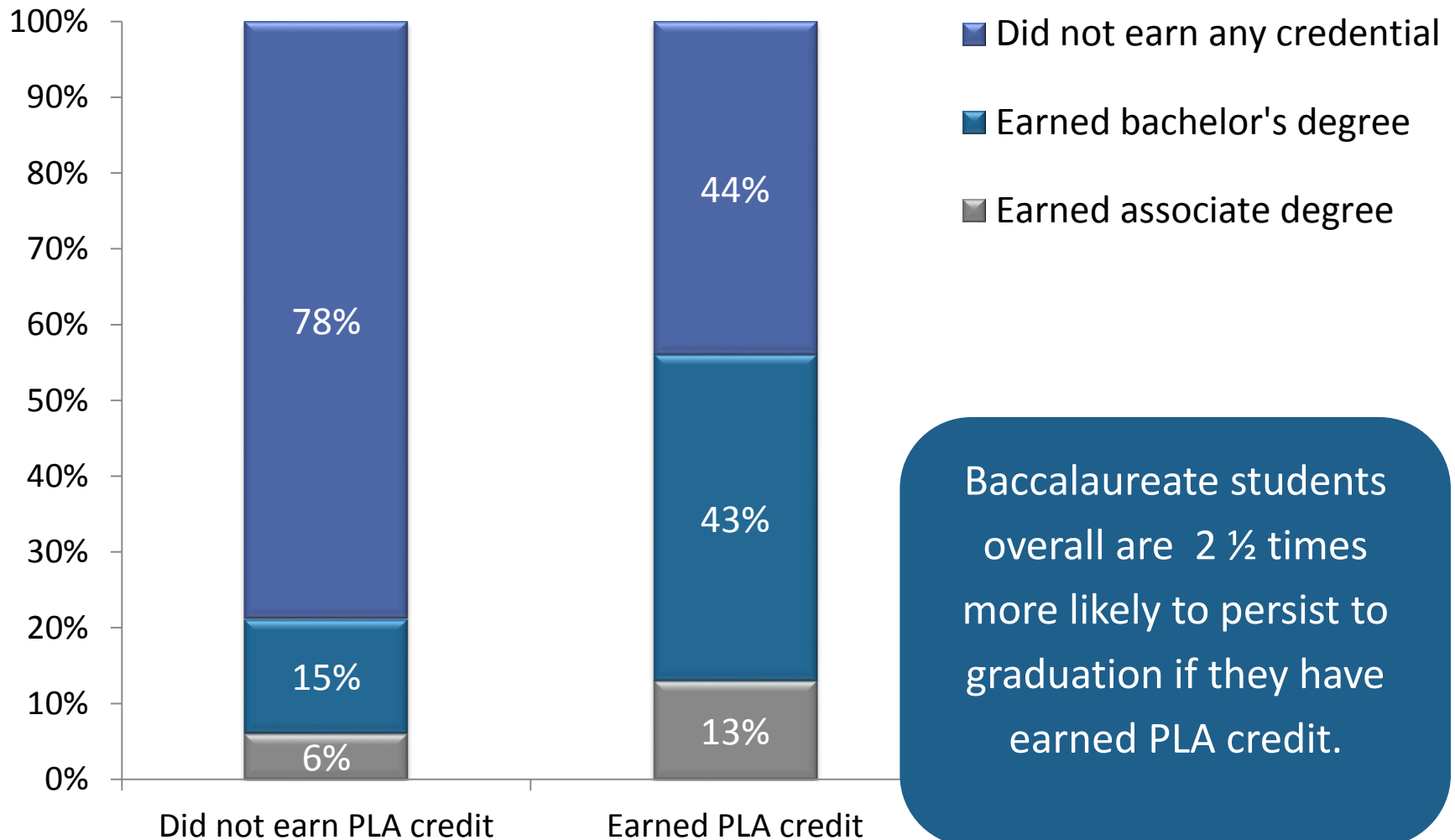
of Utahns have
“some college, no
degree”

75%

more likely to enroll in
higher education if they
could earn credit for
what they already
know



Effect of PLA on Student Completion



Baccalaureate students overall are 2 ½ times more likely to persist to graduation if they have earned PLA credit.



Effect of PLA on Student Completion



Latino students are

8

times more likely to
earn a bachelor's
degree if they have
earned PLA credit.



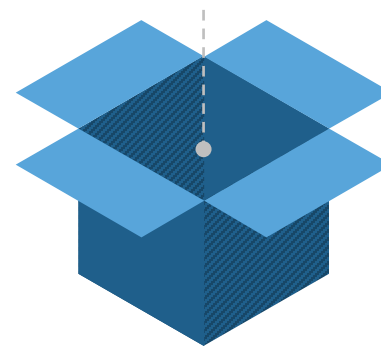
Barriers to PLA



Students often
need help with
difficult material



Limits to credit
from NWCCU
and residency
requirements



Requires
institutional
culture change



Federal
financial aid
policies



PLA Pilot with Council on Adult and Experiential Learning



**WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY**

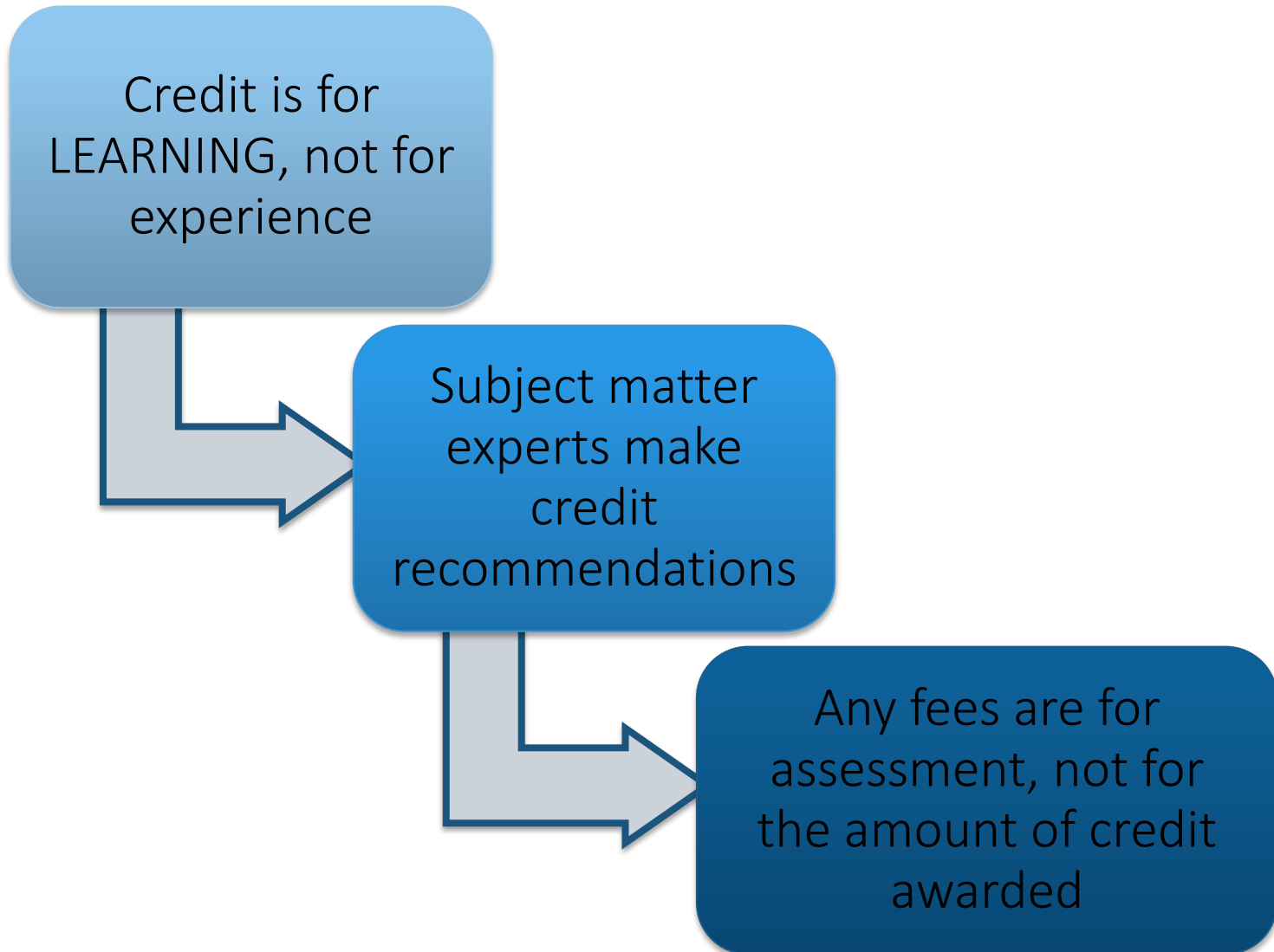


LearningCounts™

College credit for what you already know®



Key Prior Learning Assessment Standards





Most popular disciplines

Health Professions and related programs

Business, marketing, and related services

Liberal arts and sciences

Computer and information systems

Criminal justice



Future implications

American public generally in favor



Policy change in federal financial aid & accreditation



Significant financial & time cost to institutions



Student body must become aware of opportunity



Must maintain standards to ensure quality of degree