



Powered by the Sunshine State



Message from Complete Florida

Helping returning adult learners get the most for what they have already earned is an important part of our work at [Complete Florida](#). We are always looking for ways to help students accelerate their time to completion, and one of those methods is Prior Learning Assessments (PLA).

Our coaches help students navigate relevant PLA options at each of our 14 partner institutions.

This is a vital step toward making our students aware of how to gain more credit for their workplace experience. In this newsletter, we highlight work of [Miami Dade College](#), [Council for Adult and Experiential Learning \(CAEL\)](#), and [CareerSource South Florida](#). Our goal is to elevate and scale the work toward developing more PLA pathways that help Floridians earn credentials leading to employment and continued education.

To collaborate about efforts that help adult learners finish faster, please email me at michelle@completeflorida.org.

Michelle Horton, Ed.D.

Director of Complete Florida

Complete Florida Partner Highlight



Miami Dade College and CAEL Develop PLA Opportunities

CAEL, a national non-profit organization that links learning and work, recently completed a pilot project about Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) opportunities and published a report called "[Linking Public Workforce Systems and Community Colleges](#)." The project, which was partially funded by ECMC, involved four communities around the United States: Philadelphia, Hampton Roads (VA), Seattle, and Miami.

"We chose to work with Miami Dade College (MDC) because they already have an outstanding PLA program that sets them apart," said Jade Am, a senior consultant for CAEL's workforce and economic development team.

During the 18-month long pilot project, Miami Dade College and CareerSource South Florida (CSSF) hosted several meetings and a joint professional development workshop for client- and student-facing staff and leaders from both organizations. More than 60 participants attended the workshop to share information and resources about PLA in general and the project in particular. Their purpose: *To become familiar with each other's work to make guiding people as easy as possible.* They created and distributed co-branded brochures about PLA opportunities and the referral process.

As part of the referral process between MDC and CSSF, an intake form was created. It includes questions related to programs of interest, workplace training and experience, certification and licensure, military training and international degrees and coursework. In addition to strengthening the referral process, MDC and CSSF collaborated to translate existing workforce development training programs into college credit. The Immersive Code Camp program by Launchcode was matched to MDC credits.

"MDC and CSSF have committed to continuing to collaborate beyond the project end date to build upon the strong foundation that we have created," said Carla Hamaty, coordinator of prior learning assessment at Miami Dade College. "Representatives from both institutions will continue to meet to strengthen the referral process and keep the partnership active."

Students who want information about PLA opportunities can visit [MDC's website](#). The site outlines details about how to pursue options such as credit by exam, credit for military training, credit based on portfolio assessment and credit based on professional training.

Hamaty has been in her current position at MDC for three years. During that time, she said students have earned thousands of hours of PLA credit. The fields with the most PLA credits are business, technology, criminal justice, and television and film.

Building A Dream



USF Student Pursues Information Architecture Degree

Ethan, 38, lives in Clearwater with his family. Like many Complete Florida students, he has a full-time job while going to school. Ethan works as a server but wants to pursue a career outside the hospitality industry. To that end, he is earning a bachelor's degree in Information Architecture at the University of South Florida.

"I like computers, and it's a promising job field," Ethan said. "Everyone is collecting data, and someone is going to have to do something with all that data. Also, it's interesting to me to find out why people design things the way they do."

Because all his classes are online, Ethan can manage his personal and professional life in addition to the demands of school.

"I have determined that two classes a semester is how much I can take," Ethan said. "I don't want to float through it. I want to do well, and I think it's important to go to a good school. I keep score, and so far I have gotten an A in everything. The professors at USF have experience, and I get to learn from people who are really good."

When he decided to return to college, Ethan got in touch with Complete Florida, and his coach Matt Smith, helped plan his educational journey. First, Ethan completed an associate degree online at Florida State College at Jacksonville. When he finished it in Spring 2017, he transferred to the University of South Florida.

"I knew when I started that I wanted a degree from USF, and Matt investigated everything and helped me do all this as effectively as possible," Ethan said. "The way I look at it is that it might be tough right now to get everything done, but I know that it is going to be totally worth it because the rest of my life will be immeasurably better."

What We're Reading

- [What Will Be Important in the Learn and Work Ecosystem in 2030? How Do We Prepare?](#)
- [Maximizing Student Success for First-Gen Students](#)
- [Incubating Innovation: The Growing Role of Continuing Education](#)

Who Are We?

Complete Florida is a high-tech, low-hassle, online program for busy adults to finish their college degree and land their dream job. We provide free concierge coaching services for students returning to college.

CompleteFlorida.org

By the Numbers

14 Partner schools

130+ Degree programs

8,900+ Students

working with a Complete Florida Coach

\$1 million+ Awarded

in scholarships from Complete Florida

1,086 Graduates



Play Now

In Their Own Voice

It is the most rewarding experience to help students return to college and see them accomplish their goals and dreams. Hear from Sharon about the importance of finishing her degree and what it means for her family.

What Students are Saying

"After seven years of taking a break in schooling, it was difficult to get in rhythm again. The Complete Florida program and its scholarships significantly increase the likelihood of my academic success."

~Mario

"Getting this degree will solidify my expertise as a project manager and open new doors. It will help me secure a promising future for me and my family."

~Priscilla

"I have been able to use the knowledge I learned in my college courses to advance my career. I have been placed in charge of payroll, hiring and managing the sales team."

~Hunter

"I appreciate the Complete Florida team working with me to provide information that helps me get through my degree."

~Miranda

"Though getting an associate degree is a short-term goal for me, finishing my bachelor's is my ultimate goal. I want to set a proper example for my daughter as well as increase my ability to get promoted and provide for my family after the Marine Corps."

~Geoffrey

Follow Us On Social Media



Contact Complete Florida

Share this email:



Manage your preferences | Opt out using TrueRemove™

Got this as a onward? Sign up to receive our future emails.

View this email online.

321 N De Villiers Street, Suite 308
Pensacola, FL | 32501 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

