



**Front Range Community College**  
**Business Department**  
**Associate of Applied Science in Highway Maintenance Management**

**Earning Academic Credit for Work-Related Experience**

An important part of the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Highway Maintenance Management at Front Range Community College (FRCC) is that most of the required 15 credits in highway maintenance management and the 12 elective credits needed to complete the degree can be earned through a variety of experiences in the highway maintenance industry (not in the classroom). These credits are primarily earned through Prior Learning Assessment.

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is the process for evaluating knowledge and skills to award college credit for learning from: training courses, certifications, work experience, military and volunteer service, on-the-job training, apprenticeship, and independent study. Ways in which prior learning is assessed include:

- Passing a challenge exam, if available (such as a comprehensive final exam in a course);
- Successful completion an approved industry training program from a highway maintenance industry partner;
- Having an approved industry-recognized certification
- Submitting a portfolio (collection) of documents showing evidence of successful work experience and achieved work competencies in highway maintenance.

Select industry partner training courses have been evaluated by FRCC for PLA credit. Students successfully completing these approved industry training courses (such as Traffic Control Supervisor training) will be eligible to receive college credit for the linked FRCC highway maintenance management (HWY) course (e.g., HWY 105 – Traffic Control). This is similar to transferring credit from another college. FRCC assesses no fee to the student to receive this transfer credit. The student is responsible for all costs associated with completing the industry training.

Students with demonstrated work competencies in highway maintenance obtained through other successful industry training, earned industry certifications, or industry work experience can seek PLA credit through the student portfolio process. Students must put together a collection of documents providing clear evidence of demonstrated competence in highway maintenance. These documents might include certificates of training completion; copy of industry certifications; letters from supervisors or subject matter experts verifying work competence; resume of work experience showing work competencies performed over defined periods of time; and other documented evidence demonstrating job competence in highway maintenance.

The highway maintenance work competencies in the student portfolio must link to the FRCC highway maintenance management (HWY) courses. Competencies might be in the areas of highway engineering technician; highway materials and structures; highway equipment operation and management; environmental; incident management, emergency management, and weather events; and highway maintenance management. The student portfolio is submitted to the FRCC Highway Maintenance Management program director for evaluation to determine number of PLA credits earned. Students are charged a fee for each credit earned through the PLA student portfolio process. Consult with the program director for more details.

PLA credit earned through military service training is based on the student's Joint Services Transcript (JST) for current or former Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Navy personnel or on a Community College of the Air Force Transcript (CCAF) for Air Force personnel.

FRCC's residency requirement requires students to earn at least 15 credits by completing classroom or online course at Front Range Community College. The remaining academic credits to complete the degree can be earned through Prior Learning Assessment.

For more information on Prior Learning Assessment, contact Susan Baillargeon, Highway Maintenance Management Program Director, at [susan.baillargeon@frontrange.edu](mailto:susan.baillargeon@frontrange.edu) or 970.204.8175.