

2021
COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING[®]
CONFERENCE

The Future Is Competency Based Education: Supporting Early Childhood Educators with Degree Attainment

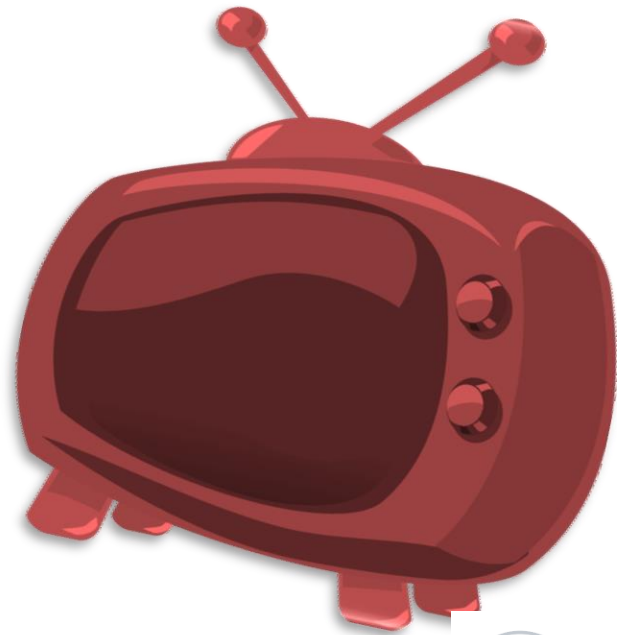
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What's good?

- In chat, put what you've been watching on your favorite streaming platform or what you've been reading lately.



Agenda

- What is CBE?
- ECE Competency Pilot in Illinois
- How does it work?
- NLU's model
- What does the future hold?

CBE: An Opportunity to Reset?

- The inequities exposed by the pandemic have forced educators to rethink what we've always done so that we can better meet the needs of all students, especially those who are furthest from opportunity.
- A CBE model affords students the time they need to truly learn and master content, with targeted, just-in-time support that relies heavily on formative feedback as opposed to just-in-case, one-size-fits-all instruction.

-Getting Smart, 2021

Competency-Based Education: What is it?

CBE is personalized. Learners can move at their own pace, while getting consistent support from instructors. CBE honors the fact that students can demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.

There is space for **Prior Learning Assessment** so learners focus on what they have yet to learn, or become competent.

Assessments can be performance-based, simulations, and other **nontraditional** methods.

Formative Assessments serve as ongoing indicators of learning—**Summative Assessments** serves as the way in which the learner demonstrates competency.

CBE is tied to a demonstration of competency. Not seat time or performance using traditional, standardized measures.

Demonstrating competency leads to credentials, credit or some sort of entitlement. In other words, it **“counts”**.

Gateways to Opportunity Early Childhood Education Credential Competency Project

National Louis University was one of five Institutions in Illinois chosen to collaboratively develop 64 competency-based ECE modules that build upon faculty fellow developed assessments and rubrics—allowing for a consistent, clear curriculum that creates opportunities for Prior Learning Assessment.

This project was funding through Preschool Development Grant Birth - Five PDG B-6 federal dollars. NLU is grateful to GOECD and INCCRRA for their generous support of this project.

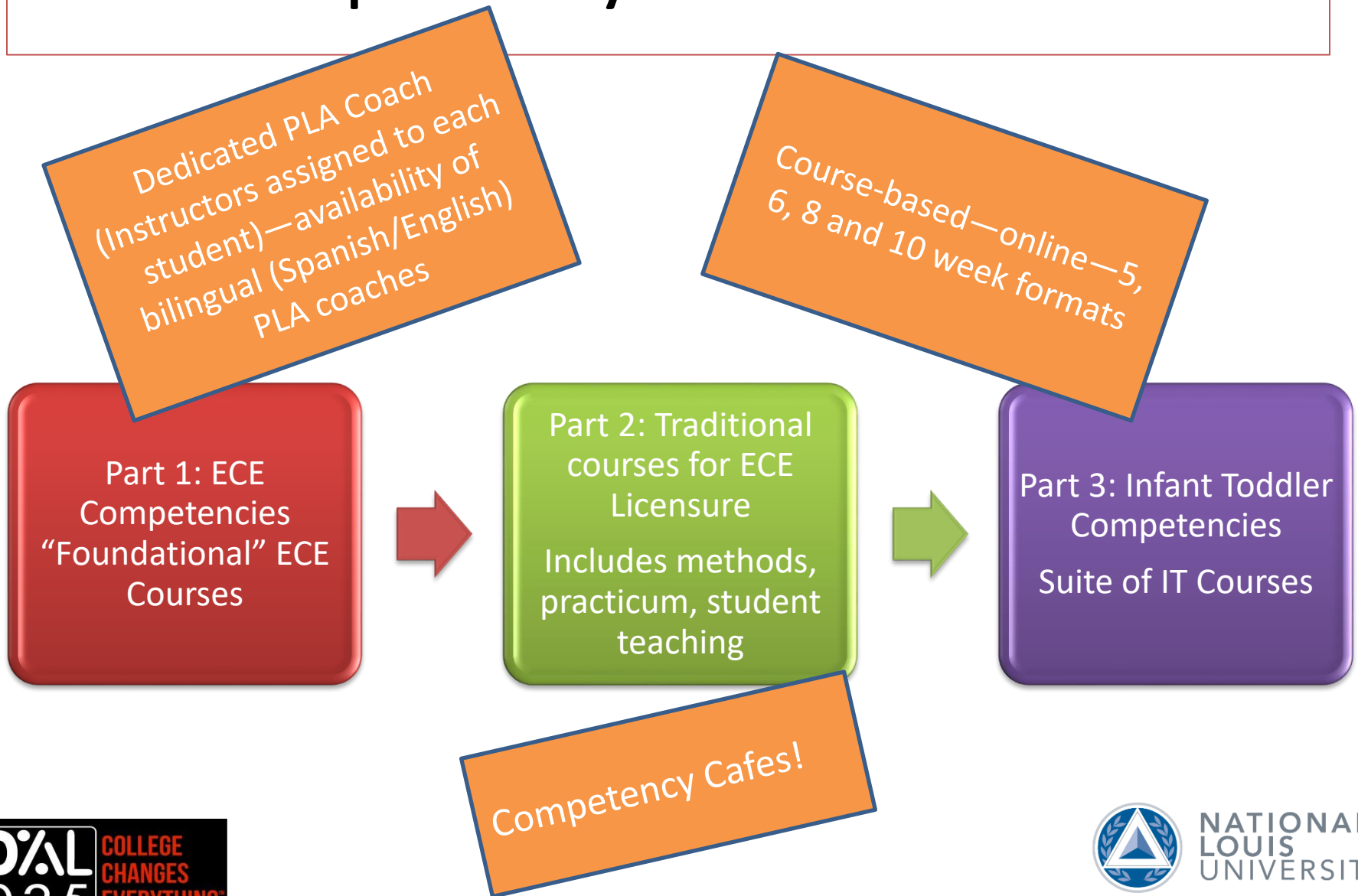
The Details...Building the Statewide Competency Modules

- Cross-institutional
- Used already developed and statewide approved/adopted assessments and rubrics
- Were created using a consistent template
- Every module is focused on a summative assessment and includes sub-competencies that measure formative assessments
- All readings/videos/materials are OER
- Recommended: should contain some opportunities for Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

Highlights of the NLU Pilot

- **Competency-Based Curriculum:** EC Teachers can **earn credit** by demonstrating what they know—saving time and money.
- **Preparation** for working in the **full spectrum** of ECE: Birth to Grade 2.
- Utilizing a **residency model** so EC Teachers can continue to work in their classrooms/programs while earning credit.
- An **accelerated path** to a B.A. degree that includes preparation for the **PEL w/ ECE Endorsement, ECE Level 5 and ITC Level 5 Credentials.**

ECE Competency Pilot Details



What is PLA?

“PLA is the process we use to evaluate learning that has occurred outside of the traditional academic environment. It is used to grant college credit, certification, or advanced standing toward further education or training. Other common terms for this process include credit for prior learning (CPL) and recognition of learning.”

-Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

Seeking and obtaining PLA in the Pilot

Students are enrolled in courses that contain the applicable competency modules

Student decides which modules for which they want to seek PLA

Student attempts summative assessment (SA) up to 3 times

Once SA is completed successfully, student move on to the next module in the course.

Student may choose to complete full module as this point

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

HGD4- Interprets children's unique developmental patterns and identifies supportive resources for children who may require further assessment. Describes process of first and second language acquisition



Summative Assessment

Observe a young dual language learner

Complete a developmental checklist

Create a developmental profile with recommendations for supportive resources for the child and family.



Obtaining Credit

PLA Faculty "score" your assessment using a rubric (that you will also have access to). If you score at "competent" or above you get credit! If you score less than competent you can try again (up to 3 times total) OR complete the full module (your PLA coach will support you).

The future...?

- How do you think that the Pandemic has changed our educational systems?
- What needs to change in order to advance equity in all educational spaces?
- Can you see CBE working in the places where your work intersects with credentials, degrees and career advancement?

Thank you!

Questions?



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Resources/References

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