

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1164**

Introduced by Lonowski, 33; Juarez, 5; Lippincott, 34; Meyer, G., 17.

Read first time January 20, 2026

Committee: Education

- 1    A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to postsecondary education; to adopt the Prior
- 2       Learning Act.
- 3    Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1       **Section 1.** Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be  
2 cited as the Prior Learning Act.

3       **Sec. 2.** For purposes of the Prior Learning Act:

4       (1) Commission means the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary  
5 Education;

6       (2) Cut score means the minimum score an individual is required to  
7 achieve on a prior learning examination to receive postsecondary credit  
8 from a Nebraska public postsecondary institution;

9       (3) Nebraska public postsecondary institution has the same meaning  
10 as in section 85-2403; and

11       (4) Prior learning examination means a postsecondary level  
12 examination approved by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary  
13 Education pursuant to section 3 of this act to assess whether a student,  
14 prior to taking a postsecondary course, has already obtained knowledge  
15 and skills at a level substantially similar to what is expected from a  
16 student who has successfully completed a postsecondary course on the same  
17 subject.

18       **Sec. 3.** (1) On or before September 1, 2026, the commission shall  
19 approve a list of prior learning examinations and the cut score for each  
20 such examination. The list shall include commonly recognized prior  
21 learning examinations, including, but not limited to:

22       (a) Prior learning examinations that are associated with  
23 participation in high school courses specifically designed to prepare  
24 students for such examinations;

25       (b) Prior learning examinations that are associated with  
26 participation in high school courses using international curriculum  
27 frameworks; and

28       (c) Prior learning examinations that are not associated with high  
29 school courses endorsed by the provider of the prior learning  
30 examination.

31       (2) The commission shall set cut scores in a manner consistent with

1    national practices and shall consult recommendations for such cut scores  
2    contained in any comprehensive guide maintained by a national  
3    organization recognized for expertise on the topic of appropriate cut  
4    scores for prior learning examinations in the context of awarding  
5    postsecondary academic credit.

6        (3) The commission shall update the list of prior learning  
7    examinations and cut scores as necessary to provide options for students  
8    while maintaining the academic integrity of the Nebraska public  
9    postsecondary institutions.

10      (4) The commission shall post and maintain the list of prior  
11    learning examinations and cut scores on the commission's website in a  
12    location accessible to prospective postsecondary students and families.

13        Sec. 4. (1) On or before October 1, 2026, each Nebraska public  
14    postsecondary institution shall develop and implement written policies  
15    and procedures for awarding academic credit based on prior learning  
16    examinations. The policies and procedures shall:

17        (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, award academic  
18    credit to students for each distinct prior learning examination for which  
19    the student met or exceeded the cut score;

20        (b) Prioritize application of credit toward courses that meet  
21    general education, major, or degree requirements over application of  
22    credit towards courses that are elective for the student;

23        (c) Establish the process through which credits awarded under this  
24    section shall be recorded on transcripts and transferred to other  
25    Nebraska public postsecondary institutions; and

26        (d) Ensure that policies and procedures are publicly posted on the  
27    institution's website in a location accessible to prospective students  
28    and families.

29        (2) With approval from the commission, a Nebraska public  
30    postsecondary institution may require a higher minimum score than the cut  
31    score approved by the commission pursuant to section 3 of this act if the

1    chief academic officer of such institution determines, based on evidence  
2    of student performance or course success rates, that a higher score is  
3    necessary for success in a specific course or sequence. Such  
4    justification shall be documented and submitted to the commission as part  
5    of the request for commission approval of the higher minimum score.

6        (3) On or before October 15, 2026, each Nebraska public  
7    postsecondary institution shall submit its policies and procedures  
8    adopted under this section to the commission. The commission shall  
9    compile all such policies and procedures and post a statewide summary on  
10   the commission's website, including the justification for any higher  
11   minimum score requirements approved by the commission pursuant to  
12   subsection (2) of this section.

13       **Sec. 5.** (1) On or before December 31, 2027, and on or before  
14   December 31 of each year thereafter, each Nebraska public postsecondary  
15   institution shall submit an annual report to the commission including:

16            (a) The number of students awarded academic credit based on prior  
17   learning examinations during the preceding academic year;

18            (b) The total number of academic credits awarded based on prior  
19   learning examinations;

20            (c) For students who graduate from the institution, the number of  
21   such credits applied toward:

22              (i) General education;

23              (ii) Major or degree program requirements; and

24              (iii) Elective credit; and

25            (d) Any additional information the commission determines necessary  
26   to assess the implementation and impact of this act.

27            (2) The Commission shall annually compile the reports received under  
28   subsection (1) of this section and electronically submit a summary to the  
29   Education Committee of the Legislature and make such summary publicly  
30   available on the commission's website.

31        **Sec. 6.** The commission may adopt and promulgate rules and

1 regulations as necessary to carry out the Prior Learning Act.