



PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Chatham University was one of the first schools in the country to make a strong commitment to adult students through the creation of its **Gateway Program**. Gateway students are Chatham women age 23 or older who are attending college for the first time or are transfer students. Chatham understands that adult learners have multiple obligations, so to help them meet their educational goals, Chatham provides several unique advantages:

- Chatham University recognizes that **life experiences** may provide a knowledge base equivalent to **college-level learning outcomes**. As such, degree-seeking Gateway students have an opportunity to be awarded academic credit for post-secondary knowledge gained prior to matriculating at Chatham University. Knowledge gained from employment, job training, volunteer and civic duties, military service and travel are just some examples to contemplate when considering **experiential learning credit**.
- Chatham University's **Portfolio Development** program is meant to assist students in identifying areas of college-level experiential learning by utilizing course-specific learning outcomes that correspond to specifically targeted courses. Moreover, Gateway students applying for portfolio assessment are enrolled in a portfolio development course which guides students through each step of the portfolio development process. Once the portfolio is complete, faculty members from the appropriate disciplines evaluate it to determine the number of credits to be awarded. Degree-seeking students may earn a maximum of 30 Chatham credits for their portfolio. Please contact the Coordinator of Prior Learning Assessment to explore your eligibility for portfolio development as a means of earning credit.
- In addition to portfolio development as a vehicle for demonstrating experiential learning, Chatham University also awards credit to students who successfully meet or exceed the University's standards for **credit by examination**. American Council on Education (ACE Guides), Challenge exams, College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams, Dantes (DSST) exams and Excelsior exams provide Gateway students with the opportunity to receive college credit. A student is advised to take these examinations early in her academic program.
- Chatham University accepts college-level **transfer credits** from two- and four- year institutions in which a minimum of a C grade has been earned.
- Chatham University is pleased to announce its participation in the **Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program**. The Yellow Ribbon Program will match tuition and fees in excess of the portion funded by the GI Bill which are waived by Chatham. This program is available for women applying to undergraduate degree programs, and all students applying to graduate and online degree programs. Please visit the Department of Veterans Affairs website for additional information at www.va.gov.



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- At Chatham College for Women, each student can personalize her curriculum by proposing a **self-designed major or minor** in consultation with her faculty advisors. The major or minor may be built around a single topic, possibly in disciplines not usually considered related. The self-designed major must be approved by a committee of faculty members from the disciplines most closely related to the proposed major.
 - Gateway students attending classes on a full-time basis can receive up to \$12,000 in **merit awards** from Chatham University. If transferring from a two-year college and a member of Phi Theta Kappa, an additional \$2,000 may be awarded.
 - Incoming students should contact the Office of Admission or consult their advisors about **Accelerated Graduate Programs**. Chatham Gateway students have the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in the major of their choice along with a master's degree in as little as five years. Qualified students may pursue a graduate program at Chatham University. Select programs at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College and at Duquesne University are also available through the Accelerated Graduate Program.
 - Chatham University's **PACE Center** provides **individual academic advising, tutoring** in every course offered at Chatham, and a learning center. The **Office of Career Development** provides **internships and job search support**.
 - The **Gateway Student Association (GSA)** is an official campus organization that represents all Gateway women. GSA serves as a conduit for meeting other members of Chatham's adult learning community as well as participating in events, exchanging ideas and sharing common experiences.