

Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is a way of obtaining credit for college-level knowledge and/or skills gained outside the classroom through work, informal education or volunteer activities. It compares prior learning gained from education, work, life experiences, and personal study to the learning achieved in college courses. If you are able to demonstrate that your prior learning is equivalent to what would normally be acquired through formal courses in the chosen area of college study, then credit is granted. *It is important to understand that credit is not awarded simply for your experiences.* Credit is awarded for the learning from experience that you can both articulate and prove.

It is possible to be credited with up to one-half of the program through PLAR. Any prior learning that is awarded credit will appear on your transcript as "PL".

Guidelines for Prior Learning Assessment Challenge Activities

What are the Evaluation Methods/Challenge Activities?

The challenge process has been developed to measure an individual's prior learning achievements against specific learning outcomes of individual course(s). This process measures demonstrated learning through a variety of evaluation methods or challenge activities designed by faculty and include, for example:

- Tests, both written and oral;
- Essay or project;
- Performance activities observed and evaluated by the assessor, including, for example, practical skills, demonstrations, on-site observations for Practicum, and so on;
- Portfolio assessment that includes a collection of documents on what you have learned from your past experiences.
- Students who want to challenge the ECE practicums must have a minimum of 5 years experience working in a licensed child care centre.

Fees

Fees cover the services of the College involved in the PLAR process, including the services of the PLAR staff, consultations with the Program Coordinator/faculty, as well as the actual assessment of your learning portfolio. The registration fee must accompany the application.