

Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition Policy

Policy Statement

Bow Valley College supports the recognition of individuals' previously acquired skills, competencies, and knowledge because these are key components to facilitating lifelong learning and employment, and contribute to the health and prosperity of our community.

Purpose

Bow Valley College recognizes prior learning acquired through study, work, and life experiences, which has not been recognized through formal transfer credit mechanisms. This policy and accompanying procedure outline the principles by which prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) is governed and identifies the criteria and process to grant credit recognition.

Scope

The policy applies to credit and non-credit courses.

Principal Objectives

1. The College is committed to minimizing barriers to student mobility while maintaining the integrity, quality and rigor of our programs and credentials.
2. PLAR practices will be efficient, relevant, effective and accessible for all learners.
3. PLAR mechanisms will be flexible and responsive to the diverse needs of individual learners and the College, in order to accommodate the learner while maintaining quality standards.
4. PLAR contributes to the efficiency of the educational system by efforts to eliminate redundant education or training for individuals who have acquired competency elsewhere.
5. PLAR assesses current competency and therefore recency of training is one of many factors considered.

Compliance

Employees, contractors, and learners are responsible for knowing, understanding, and complying with Bow Valley College policies, procedures, and any other attached documentation that relate to their position, employment, or enrolment at the College.

Definitions (Optional)

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is a process of identifying, assessing and recognizing skills, competencies, and knowledge to facilitate the transfer of these skills, competencies, and knowledge of individuals into further learning and work. Skills, competencies and knowledge, may be acquired through formal, informal, non-formal or experiential learning gained through work experience, training, independent study, or volunteer activities.

(From *Advancing PLAR in Alberta: An Action Plan*. Alberta Innovation and Advanced Education. October 2008)

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DATA SHEET

Accountable Officer

Vice President, Academic and Chief Learning Officer

Responsible Officer

Dean, School of Health and Wellness
 Dean, School of Community Studies and Creative Technologies
 Dean, Chiu School of Business
 Director, Enrolment Services and Registrar

Approval

Requires Board of Governor Approvals

Contact Area

Office of the Vice President, Academic and Chief Learning Officer

Relevant Dates

Approved	November 2015
Effective	November 2015
Next Review	November 2020
Modification History	

Associated Policy(ies)

Academic Continuance and Graduation (500-1-5)
 Grading Policy (500-1-6)
 Learner Appeals (500-1-12)
 Learner Records & Information – Collection, Access & Waivers (500-1-16)
 Learner Credit Registration Policy (500-1-17)
 Transfer Credit Request (500-1-9)
 Academic Accommodations and Support for Learners with Disabilities Policy & Procedure (500-1-4)

Directly Related Procedure(s)

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Procedure

Directly Related Guideline(s) (if any)

Related Legislation

Attachments (Optional)

Forms FAQ