



# OntarioLearn Policy

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<b>POLICY TYPE:</b>	Academic
<b>POLICY TITLE:</b>	Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition Policy
<b>POLICY NO.:</b>	ACAD-008
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b>	OntarioLearn Policy Committee
<b>POLICY APPROVED BY:</b>	OntarioLearn Board of Directors
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	March 2011
<b>REVISED:</b>	October 2014
<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>	October 2018

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## Introduction

Partner colleges establish a process to award college credits earned by students through recognition of work and life experience. Acknowledging the attainment of skills and knowledge from prior work, volunteer or life experiences enables students to accelerate the completion of their educational goals.

## Purpose

This policy outlines the framework by which students and host colleges/registering colleges address prior learning assessment and recognition requests.

## Definitions

**Host college:** The College who owns/delivers the course.

**Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR):** is a process used to assess significant and relevant learning acquired through study, work, volunteering and other life experiences, not recognized through the formal credit transfer process.

**Registering college:** The College where the student is registered.

## Policy statements

1. Prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) is for students who are interested in pursuing a college credential, who feel they have acquired learning through work, volunteer, and life experiences, and/or non-credentialed training which fulfills the learning requirements of one or more college course(s).
2. Prior learning assessment and recognition opportunities are available to students at most OntarioLearn partner colleges.
3. Students wishing to pursue a PLAR must follow the PLAR policies and procedures of their registering college.

4. Credits granted for prior learning may not always be transferable to other institutions. It is the responsibility of the learner to determine transferability.
5. Due to administrative complexities and variations in PLAR procedures between OntarioLearn partner colleges, not all OntarioLearn courses are eligible for PLAR.
6. PLAR candidates will be bound by their registering college's residency requirements.

### **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) considerations**

OntarioLearn's commitment to accessibility and AODA standards has been considered in the development of this policy.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the partner colleges to ensure that "Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition" opportunities are available to their students.

### **Non-compliance implications**

Non-compliance puts the individual college at risk of inequitable treatment of students and potential legal action.

### **Communications Plan**

The registering college is responsible for publishing/communicating details related to their PLAR process to their students.

### **Related policies, procedures and directives**

Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition Procedure (ACAD-008.1)  
Registering College PLAR Policy/Procedure  
Transfer of Academic Credit Policy (ADMIN-010)