

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

This document is the parent policy for any College procedures. Questions regarding this policy are to be directed to the identified Policy Owner.

Category:	D. Student / Academic
Policy Number:	D13
Approval Date:	November 24, 2020
Effective Date:	November 24, 2020
Policy Owner:	Vice President, Student Experience Registrar and Director, Student Services

Objective:	<p>Olds College recognizes learning is a continual process that can be achieved through formal, non-formal, and informal learning and is fully supportive of developing ways and means to provide appropriate recognition of a learner's prior experiences or education. In assessing previous learning and competencies, the integrity of Olds College programs of study and credentials are the overriding considerations.</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure all forms of prior learning are evaluated in a consistent manner and in doing so provide completion pathways for Olds College students.</p>
Policy:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students admitted to a provincially approved program can have previous formal, non-formal and informal learning assessed for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). 2. RPL will comply with the residency requirement identified in Policy D20 - Graduation and Convocation. 3. RPL cannot be awarded for work integrated learning courses (ie. work experience, practicum, field school, internship or directed field study courses). 4. RPL decisions are at the discretion of the Office of the Registrar, in consultation with the Associate Dean and Faculty as necessary. 5. Exceptions to the RPL policy may be approved by the Registrar.
Definitions:	<p>Formal Learning: Learning at post-secondary educational institutions such as colleges or universities and results in credit being granted for successful completion of a course. Recognition of formal learning typically leads to a transfer of credit.</p> <p>Informal Learning: Learning that takes place through work and life experiences. Learning activities may not be structured or officially evaluated. Recognition of informal learning typically leads to prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR).</p> <p>Non-formal Learning: Learning usually offered by a sector, professional group or a</p>

company for specific training needs or through continuing education. Formal assessments may or may not be included. Recognition of non-formal learning typically leads to prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR).

Recognition of Prior Learning: The process that allows students to document, be assessed for and gain recognition for their prior learning and competencies. The assessment and recognition process can take various forms, and may result in the student gaining credit for an Olds College course.

There are three (3) forms of Recognition of Prior Learning:

- Transfer credit
- Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)
- Challenge exam

Transfer Credit: Credit granted for an Olds College course by completing formal learning.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR): Credit granted for an Olds College course through assessing competencies, skills and knowledge gained through informal and non-formal learning.

Challenge Exam: Credit granted for an Olds College course by successfully completing an assessment.

Related Information:

Related Procedures:

Review Period:

Revision History:

D13 Recognition of Prior Learning Procedure

3 years

New: January 2000
 Revised: December 2012
 Revised: April 2016
 Revised: December 2017
 Revised: November 2020