



## **Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) at Portage College**

**Definition:** Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is a process of identifying, assessing and recognizing what a person knows and their competencies. Learning may occur in a variety of settings and learners will receive appropriate recognition for prior documented learning toward their desired certificate or diploma.

- Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition is an evaluation of the skills and knowledge that applicants have.
- PLAR is based on demonstrated learning and that is appropriate to the course or program learning outcomes in which it is accepted;
- PLAR is consistent with the achievement levels required by the program in which it is accepted; and
- PLAR is balanced as appropriate to the subject area, between theory and practical application.

### **Eligibility**

- An applicant or registered student may apply for a Prior Learning Assessment. An individual seeking credit for prior learning must have met the established admission and registration requirements to gain admittance to a program.
- Course pre-requisites must be satisfied unless waived by the Dean, in consultation with Registrar or designate.
- Applicants need to complete a request form before they are granted an assessment.
- Deans of each program will determine what percentage of a program may be earned through PLAR.

### **Limitations**

Prior Learning Assessment is not available for the following purposes:

- the purpose of raising a grade
- the purpose of satisfying scholarship requirements

### **Fees**

- Fees are non-refundable and must be paid in advance of Prior Learning Assessment
- Maximum fee assessment is determined by the credit weight of the course(s) x the current fee per credit plus the cost of supplies/materials. In no instance will the fee be less than \$200.00
- A non-refundable application fee of \$25.00 is charged for each Prior Learning Assessment request. This fee will be applied to the total cost if the prior learning assessment proceeds.
- Prior Learning Assessments for cost recovery, ad hoc and Continuing Education programs will vary depending on College resources required to administer the assessment

### **Assessment/Grading/Appeals**

- Prior Learning Assessment outcomes are recorded on the transcripts in the same way grades are normally transcript for credit courses.
- Unsuccessful Prior Learning Assessment attempts will not be recorded on transcripts.
- Successful Prior Learning Assessment may be included to meet College residency requirements (25% residency requirement).
- Prior Learning Assessment results are final and supplemental or challenge examinations are not allowed.
- Prior Learning Assessment outcomes are not subject to appeal.
- A course may be assessed only once.

### **PN Program-Specific PLAR Guidelines**

The following courses are eligible for PLAR providing the student has completed an equivalent version of the course within the past two years:

- NURS 149
- NURS 152
- NURS 200

Equivalency is determined by the assessment of the Curriculum Lead Coordinator once the following items are provided:

- Completed Advanced Credit Request Form (may be requested from a [student advisor](#))
- Transcript from previous post-secondary institution
- Course outline and syllabus of previously completed course being assessed for equivalency

Students who have a previous course deemed equivalent to NURS 149, NURS 152, or NURS 200 that is older than one year will be required to audit the course. Depending on the student's previous grade, they may be required to complete the assessments contained within the course. See the PN Student Handbook for details on auditing a PN course.

Failing PLAR will result in the student being required to retake the course.

Students requesting PLAR should make their requests within the following timelines to ensure there is adequate time to perform the assessment prior to the course's next scheduled start date:

- For NURS 200 the request should be made before the end of June each year
- NURS 149 and NURS 152 requests should be made before the end of October each year

These requests should be made through the [student advisor](#) and the previously mentioned fees will be applied.

The student can request time to practice in the lab prior to their PLAR assessment to the maximum of two hours. A fee may be associated with this practice time.

## **NURS 149 PLAR**

NURS 149 PLAR includes the following assessments:

- Proof of completion of the online [Alberta Health Services It's Your Move module](#) within the last month
- Proof of completion of the following CLPNA Restricted Activities Modules within the past two months (note that these do require a [Student CLPNA Membership](#) to access):
  - Understanding Restricted Activities
  - Ear Syringing
  - Dispensing: Administration of Pass and Bridge Medications
- A SafeMedicate Online Exam
- Demonstration of the assessment, preparation, administration, and documentation for the following medication types (these must follow the skill-test guidelines for NURS 149):
  - Subcutaneous injections
  - Intramuscular injections
- Demonstration of successful priming and regulation of an IV line
- Completion of a mock head-to-toe bed bath on a manikin

## **NURS 152 PLAR**

NURS 152 PLAR includes the following assessments:

- The completion of a head-to-toe assessment on a manikin following the skill-testing guidelines of NURS 152

## **NURS 200 PLAR**

To be eligible for PLAR in NURS 200, the student must have obtained advanced credit for all prerequisite courses (ex: you cannot PLAR NURS 200 if you do not have advanced credit for NURS 149 and NURS 152).

NURS 200 PLAR includes the following assessments:

- Proof of completion of the following CLPNA Restricted Activities Modules within the past two months:
  - Administering Blood and Blood Products: Transfusion
  - Administration of Nitrous Oxide
  - Immunization
  - Administering Diagnostic Imaging Contrast Agents
  - Non-Ionizing Radiation
  - Fetal Heart Monitoring
  - Administering Medications via Central Venous Catheter, Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter, and Implanted Venous Access Device
  - Administering Parenteral Nutrition
- Demonstration of the assessment, preparation, administration, and documentation for the following medication types (these must follow the skill-test guidelines for NURS 200):
  - Piggyback IV medication administration
- Demonstration of the assessment, preparation, completion, and documentation for the following skills (as per the skill-test guidelines for NURS 200):

- Sterile technique in the dressing change of a packed wound
- Sterile technique for the insertion of a foley catheter
- Sterile technique for the dressing and cap change with CVC