

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:	A. Academic
Policy Number:	A17
Approval Date:	July 5, 2024
Effective Date:	July 5, 2024
Policy Owner:	Vice President, Student Experience

Objective:	<p>Olds College of Agriculture & Technology (the “College”) recognises learning is a continual process that can be achieved through Formal, Non-Formal and Informal Learning and experience. The College is fully supportive of developing methods to provide recognition of a learner’s prior experiences or education. In assessing previous learning and competencies, the integrity of the College programs of study and credentials are 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, assist in providing multiple completion pathways for the College’s students.</p>
Policy:	<p>Students admitted to a provincially approved program can have previous Formal and/or Non-Formal Learning assessed for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).</p> <p>RPL will comply with the residency requirement identified in D20 Graduation and Convocation Policy.</p> <p>RPL may not be awarded for work integrated learning courses (eg. work experience, practicum, field school, internship or directed field study courses).</p> <p>RPL decisions are at the discretion of the Office of the Registrar, in consultation with the Associate Dean and Faculty as necessary.</p> <p>Exceptions to the RPL policy may be approved by the Registrar.</p>
Definitions:	<p>Formal Learning: Learning at post-secondary educational institutions such as colleges or universities, which 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</p>

(PLAR).

Non-Formal Learning: Learning usually offered by a sector, professional group or employer for specific training needs or through continuing education. Formal assessments may or may not be included. Recognition of Non-Formal Learning typically leads to PLAR.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL): 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 a College course.

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

1. Transfer credit
2. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)
3. Challenge exam

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

Subject Matter Expert: Individual(s) appointed by the Associate Dean typically an instructor within the program area or who has competence in the course material being reviewed.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR): Credit granted for a College course through assessing competencies, skills and knowledge gained through Formal, Informal and/or Non-Formal Learning.

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

Related Information:

A09 Student Academic Record (Records, Grading & Academic Standing)
 A10 Graduation and Convocation

Related Procedures:

A17 Recognition of Prior Learning Procedure

Review Period:

3 years

Revision History:

New: January 2000
 Revised: December 2012
 Revised: April 2016
 Revised: December 2017
 Revised: November 2020
 Revised: July 2024