Policy Title	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition
Policy Holder	Registrar
Policy Approver(s)	Senior Team
Related Policies	Ch5-s1-01 Course Evaluation and Grading Ch5-s1-02 Academic Appeals Ch5-s1-03 Transfer Credits Ch5-s1-05 Withdrawal from a Course Ch5-s3-03 Acquisition of Secondary Credential
Related Procedures	
Appendices	
Storage Location	Website - https://www.confederationcollege.ca/policies-and-procedures
Effective Date	2023-07-10
Next Review Date	2024-07-10

Purpose

Confederation College recognizes prior learning and skills, knowledge or competencies that have been acquired through employment, informal learning and/or other life experiences.

Scope

This policy applies to candidates requesting evaluation of previous learning through Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), to earn a grade in an eligible Confederation College course(s). Courses eligible for PLAR are those offered by Confederation College that lead to an Ontario College credentials, including certificates, diplomas or degrees.

Definitions

Block Challenge	A block challenge or block credit challenge is a request for multiple credits at program level, based on vocational learning outcomes.
Candidate	For the purposes of this policy, a candidate is an individual requesting assessment of prior learning through PLAR process.
Challenge Process	The challenge process may involve a variety of written and non-written evaluation methods for the purpose of measuring a candidate's competency with respect to course/program learning outcomes.
Portfolio Assessment	Portfolio assessment is a method that involves the evaluation of an organized collection of materials developed by a candidate to demonstrate learning achievements and relate them to the stated outcomes/competencies of college courses or programs.
Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)	PLAR is a process of evaluating learning, knowledge and skills acquired through life experience such as self-directed study, paid employment, voluntary work, professional development, travel, lived experience and other learning not acquired through formal postsecondary education. In order for this learning to be credited, it must be described or demonstrated, assessed as to its nature, extent, and depth, and deemed

equivalent and current when compared to course or program learning outcomes. PLAR can be assessed according to various mechanisms.

Residency   Residency refers to the minimum number of credits, or corresponding length of time, that a student must be registered with Confederation College.

1. General PLAR Elements

Eligibility

1.1.   A candidate for PLAR is 19 years of age or older or has an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent.

1.2.   In order to receive a credential with credits obtained through PLAR, a candidate must meet the program admission requirements. However, candidates are not required to be registered Confederation College students in order to be assessed.

1.3.   The student's prior learning will be assessed by academic faculty who have subject matter expertise in the area.

1.4.   Students who have failed a course previously or have been unsuccessful in a PLAR challenge within the past year (12 months) will not be permitted a PLAR challenge in the same course.

1.5.   Courses that are challenged through PLAR are not counted in your course load for the semester. This may have an impact on a student's eligibility for Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), sponsorship, scholarships, and awards.

Maximum Credits towards a Diploma or Certificate

1.6.   Credit for courses obtained through PLAR replace no more than 75% of the courses required for such programs.

Maximum Credits towards a Degree

1.7.   Credit for courses obtained through PLAR replace no more than 50% of the course credits required for any degree program.

2. Assessment Process for PLAR Courses

2.1.   If a candidate wishes to apply for a portfolio assessment while enrolled in the course(s) concurrently, the portfolio must be submitted by the end of the semester. Students who may be currently enrolled in the course(s) that they wish to challenge must withdraw from the course(s) if they choose to pursue the PLAR option. PLAR registration must occur before the official College deadline for course withdrawal.

2.2.   Students with extensive relevant experience may apply for a block challenge of a program. However, a block challenge may not be available in all programs.

2.3.   Candidates applying for portfolio assessment in practicum and field placement must do so before the course begins. Program-specific restrictions may exist.

2.4.   Candidates may appeal Portfolio Assessments in accordance with the Academic Grade Appeal Guidelines.

2.5.   Challenge Exam results may not be appealed.

2.6.   A candidate may re-apply for a course or block PLAR after an unsuccessful attempt, after one year has passed. The candidate is required to provide a reasonable explanation of additional relevant learning.

Noncompliance
It is the joint responsibility of the Registrar and Dean to ensure that the guidelines contained in this policy are followed and adhered to in order to effectively and efficiently support student focused learning objectives. Lack of compliance will result in delays in academic operations and student success.

Revision History

Version	Change	Author	Date of Change