



Policy	#4-10
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Administrator Responsible:	VP Student and Education Services

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT & RECOGNITION

POLICY STATEMENT

North Island College (NIC) recognizes that adult learners acquire knowledge and skills through life and work experiences and study unassociated with formal education. Through Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) processes, NIC will assess this knowledge and skill and will grant credit and/or recognition for learning that is equivalent to College courses/programs. Credit awarded is North Island College resident credit and is graded and transcribed. Fees will be charged for prior learning assessment and recognition.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

North Island College is committed to responding to the needs of adult learners and values the rich variety of ways in which learning takes place. NIC seeks to recognize learning obtained through life and work experience and to provide academic credit through the flexible assessment of this learning.

PRINCIPLES

In recognizing prior learning, North Island College seeks to:

- increase the accessibility of college courses and programs to adults;
- use valid and reliable means of assessment, by qualified specialists; and,
- ensure that standards of educational quality are met.

Definitions:

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is defined as the assessment of knowledge and skills acquired through life experiences, work, and study unassociated with formal education and the relating of that prior learning to educational program objectives and to course/program credit.

Resident credit is credit earned at North Island College for graduation purposes.

Guidelines:

- The student has the primary responsibility for providing sufficient evidence that college level learning has been achieved.
- Only faculty who have the appropriate subject matter expertise shall assess and evaluate prior learning, and determine the competency and credit awarded.
- Through PLAR processes, the College will award credit for demonstrated, current learning and not for the amount of time spent in the learning process,
- To achieve post-secondary credit for prior learning, students must demonstrate learning at a level of achievement equivalent to students registered in equivalent North Island College courses in that program/subject area.
- The College will recognize prior learning that has a balance, appropriate to the subject, between theory and practical application.
- Fees for prior learning and assessment shall be included in the Fee Schedule obtainable at the Office of the Registrar

Limitations:

- The maximum number of credits that can be obtained through the prior learning assessment and recognition is 50% of the number required to complete the program. Each program will determine the number of PLA credits applicable to a program credential, to a maximum of 50%.

Procedures:

Instructional departments/division and the Office of the Registrar will establish procedures, regulations, and fees for the assessment and recognition of prior learning. These procedures shall be made publicly available to students.

Links to Other Related Policies, Documents and Websites: To be determined.

Cross Reference:

See also Grading System Policy #4-14

See also Admissions Policy #4-09

See also Student Appeals Policy #4-12

See also Final Grade Dispute Resolution Policy #4-03