College of New Caledonia
CNC

Policy Information	
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Approved by:	Education Council
Approval Date:	April 14, 2020
Date of Next Review:	April 2025

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Policy

Policy Statement

The College of New Caledonia values student learning and the rich variety of ways and environments in which learning takes place. The College seeks to provide recognition of previous traditional and non-traditional learning. When such learning is not recognized by formal transfer agreements, it may be recognized through Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR).

Purpose / Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a systematic and consistent process for recognizing a person's knowledge, skills, and abilities for academic credit. This policy also outlines assessment methods and recognition credits available through PLAR at the College.

Scope / Limits

This policy applies to all current College of New Caledonia students requesting formal assessment of their prior learning for college level credit towards a specific graduation requirement.

Specific courses may be excluded from PLAR based on program requirements.

Principles/Guidelines

1. Students will receive credit for demonstrated knowledge, skills and attributes, and not for experience or time spent alone.

2. Credit will be awarded only for equivalent of post-secondary level learning.

3. The assessment and recognition of prior learning and the determination of credit awards will be made by subject matter and academic experts.

4. The College of New Caledonia reserves the right to determine a course's eligibility for PLAR.

5. Formal credit for learning that has been assessed as equivalent to College of New Caledonia courses and programs is granted as follows:

    a) It is given a grade of Prior Learning Assessment "PL" which is recorded on the college transcript and is not calculated into the College GPA; Unsuccessful PLAR will be recorded in a student's record, but not shown on the college transcript.

b) It is considered College of New Caledonia resident credit. However, the maximum number of credits that can be awarded through the PLAR process is determined by the program in which the PLAR credits will be applied.

6. Students will request or be requested to document their learning of specific knowledge, skills and values related to the course or program learning outcomes, objectives, or competencies for which credit is requested. Documentation must support learning and may include, but is not limited to one or a combination of the following assessment types:

    a) Challenge Examination

    b) Portfolio Assessment

    c) Work-based Assessment

7. PLAR credit will be awarded only to those students who have been admitted into a College of New Caledonia credit program.

8. A request for a PLAR may be denied or delayed under the following situations:

    a) The course has not been identified as being eligible for PLAR.

    b) A qualified subject matter and academic expert is not available to complete a PLAR.

    c) The student's prior experience/learning is not deemed adequate to achieve a reasonable expectation of success in meeting the course(s) learning objectives/outcomes as determined by the Department Educational Administrator or Designate.

9. The College of New Caledonia accepts credit earned through PLAR (as transfer credit) from all Canadian accredited post-secondary institutions that have formally adopted quality assurance standards from a recognized organization such as the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, the European Union, or UNESCO. Such transfer credit is applied in the context of College of New Caledonia course and program requirements.

Definitions

Refer to the Definitions section of the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Procedures document

Links to Other Related Policies, Documents and Websites

- Grading and Evaluation of Student Performance E-1.22
- Transfer Credit & Advanced Standing E-1.44
- College Credentials E-1.10
- Grade Appeal E-1.20

Policy Amendment Log

Amendment Number:	Date:
0	November 1990
1	January 2001
2	April 20202
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