



ADVANCED STANDING: RECOGNITION OF OTHER LEARNING EXPERIENCES

EFFECTIVE DATE Advanced Standing and PLAR Policies combined and approved by Academic Council: January 8, 1998

RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION Advanced Credit and Challenge Exams are implemented by the Director of Student Services and the appropriate Department.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) are implemented in concert with the Vice President Academic, Director of Student Services and the appropriate Department.

POLICY STATEMENT

Grande Prairie Regional College will recognize previous learning through life/work experience or courses of similar content and at a level similar to that which is required by a College program. By assessing these other learning experiences, advanced standing may be awarded.

PROCEDURES/RULES STATEMENT

Advanced standing will normally be awarded for courses in certificate or diploma programs, or for applied degree programs. The authority to grant advanced credit for courses within the university transfer area lies with the universities awarding the degree.

Credits earned through advanced standing will not be used in computing the student's Grande Prairie Regional College grade point average (GPA).

Credits earned through advanced standing may not be included in a current credit load for purposes of maintaining full-time student status. If a student is applying for a student loan or award and needs to be in full-time attendance, it may be necessary for the student to substitute other courses.

Advanced standing may be granted in one of three ways.

1. Advanced Credit

- 1.1 This type of advanced standing is granted to applicants who have completed the equivalent of some Grande Prairie Regional College course work at another institution or in a different program at this College, including course work used toward a certificate or diploma in a different program.



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- 1.2 Only courses in which the applicant has achieved a passing grade as determined by the sending institution will be considered. The College reserves the right to determine the minimum passing grade required for approval.
- 1.3 While the College may accept for Advanced Credit a course with a minimum passing grade as determined by the sending institution, individual program progression and or course prerequisite criteria may exclude a student from the next level of study.
- 1.4 Normally, the maximum advanced credit that may be granted is one half the curriculum of a given certificate or diploma program. Exceptions will be approved by the appropriate department.
- 1.5 If Advanced Credit is granted, this will be noted on the student's Grande Prairie Regional College transcript.
- 1.6 Appeals with respect to Advanced Credit are part of the College's general appeal policies and practices.

2. Challenge Examinations

- 2.1 Some programs will allow students who demonstrate knowledge in the subject matter of a particular course to seek credit through challenge exams. Only courses scheduled during the academic session may be challenged.
- 2.2 Challenge examination fees are normally 50% of the regular tuition fee.
- 2.3 Challenge examinations will be set and graded by the department and a grade assigned for the academic session in which the challenge exam is completed.
- 2.4 The maximum number of courses that may be challenged is fifty percent (one half of the curriculum of a given program.)

3. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

- 3.1 The student makes application to Grande Prairie Regional College and completes a Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition application.
- 3.2 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition credit is determined on a course-match basis. Faculty with expertise in the subject matter and course content are requested to review an applicant's prior learning assessment application. It is the responsibility of the applicant to



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demonstrate that he/she has achieved the learning objectives of the course.

- 3.3 Once documentation has been received, the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition timelines normally should not exceed ten working days.

PLAR fees are normally 50% of the regular tuition fee.

4. Transcripts

- 4.1 When it is not possible to arrive at a grade, "CR", credit, is used.
- 4.2 Credits earned by the applicant through Challenge examinations and Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition will be indicated on the student record as "E, Grade awarded by special assessment".
- 4.3 Unsuccessful attempts will not be transcribed.
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