

Prior Learning Assessment And Recognition Challenge Process

WHAT IS PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION (PLAR)?

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition is a formal evaluation and accreditation process. Students may obtain credits towards the secondary school diploma (OSSD) for knowledge and skills that they have acquired outside of secondary school. This prior learning is assessed and evaluated to determine whether the student has met the provincial course expectations. The student may “challenge” a specific course for credit or may obtain credits through the “equivalency” process if they have credentials from schools outside Ontario.

AM I ELIGIBLE TO CHALLENGE A COURSE FOR CREDIT?

Secondary school students who are enrolled in a regular day school program in an Ontario secondary school may challenge a course for credit.

WHAT COURSES MAY I CHALLENGE FOR CREDIT?

Students may challenge for credit only Grade 10, 11 or 12 courses taught in this board which are developed from a provincial policy document. These courses are described in the schools’ course calendars.

HOW MANY COURSES MAY I CHALLENGE FOR CREDIT?

Students may earn no more than four credits through the challenge process, including a maximum of two credits in any one discipline

IS PARENTAL PERMISSION NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR THE CHALLENGE PROCESS?

Students under the age of eighteen need parental approval before applying to challenge for credit for a course.

AM I LIKELY TO BE A SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE CANDIDATE?

You must answer “NO” to all of the following questions to be a likely PLAR Challenge candidate.

- Have you already earned a credit in the course you want to challenge for credit?
- Have you already earned a credit in a course similar to the course you want to challenge for credit?
- Have you already received credit as part of a block of equivalency credits for the course you want to challenge for credit?
- Have you previously failed this course?
- Have you already earned a credit in English and want to challenge an English as a second language (ESL), English literacy development (ELD), or Anglais pour débutants (APD)?
- Have you already earned a credit in Français and want to challenge French as a second language(FSL), Actualisation linguistique en français (ALF), or Perfectionnement du français (PDF)?

You must also answer “YES” to all of the questions below to be a likely PLAR Challenge candidate.

- Do you plan to challenge the entire course for credit?
- Have you met the pre-requisite requirements for the course you plan to challenge for credit?
- Is your request to challenge for credit entered in your Annual Education Plan (AEP) as part of your plans for fulfilling your educational goals?

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

The first step is to attend an interview with a PLAR coordinator.

All students who intend to challenge a course for credit must register for and attend an information session.

During the interview you will be given more detailed information on making a formal application to challenge for credit. You will receive information on what documentation is required, how your application will be processed, how your tests and assessment will be conducted, how your results will be reported, appeal procedures, withdrawal policy and contact information.

CAN I GET A HEADSTART WHILE I AM WAITING FOR THE WORKSHOP?

A student may begin by gathering and organizing any evidence that demonstrates the knowledge and skills related to the course for challenge. Visit the Ministry website www.edu.gov.on.ca and follow the path >English or Français >Elementary and Secondary >Secondary Curriculum>Choose a Grade>Choose a Course >Curriculum Expectations.

Examples of evidence may include letters of reference from teachers or community leaders, certificates, sample assignments, samples of original work, a portfolio, descriptions of programs, courses or experiences that support your application.

Visit the board/school website for additional pertinent information www.

ADDITIONAL CHALLENGE INFORMATION

Appeal Procedure

In cases where there is a disagreement with the decision of the principal about whether a student should challenge for credit, an adult student or the parent of a student who is not an adult may ask the appropriate supervisory officer to review the matter.

Repeating the challenge

A student may submit an application for challenge for a specific course for a second time after a reasonable interval, if the student can provide reasonable evidence of additional study and experience.

Assessment and Evaluation

Assessment and evaluation strategies will be based on curriculum expectations and achievement charts in the Ontario curriculum policy. They will include formal tests and other assessment strategies.

Withdrawal Policy

A student may withdraw from the challenge process prior to the final formal test without a notation on the student's Ontario Student Transcript (OST). Once students have entered the "final formal test" stage of the challenge process, and choose to withdraw from the process, a mark will be entered on the OST (Grade 11 and 12) and on the *Cumulative Tracking Record (Grades 10-12)*

Final Mark

The student's final percentage grade will be recorded on the student's Ontario Student Transcript (OST) in the same way as achievement in other courses.

PLAR Prior Learning Assessment And Recognition

To register contact Lou Conte

(519) 977-6161

