



POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Name	Recognition of Prior Learning: PLAR and Transfer Credit		
Policy #	116	Category	Academic
Policy Sponsor(s)	Associate Vice-President, Learning and Teaching	Previous Revision Date	April 2014
Policy Approved by	President & CEO	Revision Date	September 7, 2023
Procedures Approved by	Provost and Vice-President, Academic	Review Date	September 2028

See the related [PROCEDURES](#).

PURPOSE

To meet student and employer needs and enable flexible learner pathways, Saskatchewan Polytechnic recognizes and validates prior learning throughout all its programs.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Saskatchewan Polytechnic supports Polytechnics Canada’s mobility protocol and philosophy regarding credit transfer and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada ministerial statement on credit transfer in Canada (2009).
2. Saskatchewan Polytechnic recognizes that adults entering an educational institution bring life and work experiences and may need to have these experiences recognized and validated in a formal way.
3. Saskatchewan Polytechnic recognizes that employers require post-secondary educational institutions to respond to diverse and changing labour market needs with flexible assessment and accreditation methods.
4. Increasing student mobility requires portability of credit and requires Saskatchewan Polytechnic to recognize education and training completed through other post-secondary educational institutions and licensing bodies in a formal way.

POLICY

Saskatchewan Polytechnic recognizes prior learning through two evaluation processes: prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) and transfer credit.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic uses PLAR to assess for knowledge and skills acquired through previous experience, non-formal learning, and formal education that is ineligible for transfer credit to determine equivalency for credit to a Saskatchewan Polytechnic course. PLAR forms an integral part of the student evaluation and supports elements of program design and delivery.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic grants transfer credit for studies of similar content, learning outcomes and evaluation standards from recognized and authorized post-secondary institutions, and will enter into agreements with recognized post-secondary institutions to facilitate credit transfer. The assessment of equivalency will rely on the judgment of faculty as subject matter experts.

In some cases, Saskatchewan Polytechnic may grant transfer credit for specialized training taken through governmental, professional, or licensing bodies when offered on an ongoing basis, and if aligned with the outcomes of specific Saskatchewan Polytechnic course(s). Saskatchewan Polytechnic retains sole discretion to evaluate this training for credit and conduct reviews on an ongoing basis.

This policy does not apply to Adult Basic Education courses, where the Ministry of Education prior learning credit policy will apply.

DEFINITIONS

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition is a process of evaluating the knowledge and skills gained through experiential and non-formal learning, and formal education that is ineligible for transfer credit, for the purpose of obtaining credit in a Saskatchewan Polytechnic course.

Recognized post-secondary Institutions and institutions authorized to offer specific credentials include public or private institutions that have been given authority to grant degrees, diplomas, and other credentials by a public or private act, or through a government-mandated quality assurance mechanism, of the jurisdiction in which they operate.

Transcript is a certified document that provides official evidence of courses and programs that a student has taken and the results obtained.

Transfer credit is credit awarded by Saskatchewan Polytechnic for academic work completed at another recognized or authorized institution.

RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

114 Credentials
1201 Academic Accommodation for Students in the Reserve Forces
1207 Grade Appeal
1210 Academic Appeals

Recognition of Prior Learning at Saskatchewan Polytechnic: Faculty Guide Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Program Operating and Procedures Manual

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION OR REGULATIONS

N/A