



Medical Laboratory Assistant Applied Certificate

PLAR Candidate Guide

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

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Prior learning credit options at Saskatchewan Polytechnic

See [Get Credit for What you Know](#) for important information about all options to get credit for prior learning at Sask Polytech, including PLAR, transfer credit, Canadian Armed Forces credit, and equivalency credit.

How to navigate this document

This document contains links to other document sections or webpages. To return to where you were from another section in this document, press the *ALT* key and *left arrow* key at the same time. To return to this webpage from another webpage, close the other webpage or click back on the browser tab for this document.

Contents of this guide

This guide contains the following specific PLAR information and tools for this program

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- B. [PLAR eligibility and options](#)
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- E. [PLAR contact person](#)
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A. PLAR fees

Fees for PLAR challenges are set to cover our costs for consultation, assessment, and related administrative tasks. PLAR fees are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

The PLAR fees policy is subject to change for each new academic year. Please see the **Cost** section on the [PLAR webpage](#) for current fee information.

B. PLAR eligibility and options

To be eligible for PLAR for courses in this program, you must first apply for admission and be accepted into the program. You must also consult with the [PLAR contact person](#) and be approved for PLAR assessment.

C. Dates when PLAR assessment is available

PLAR assessment for this program is available from Sept 1 to June 15 in each academic year.

All PLAR assessments must be completed by June 15 of each academic year.

D. Special directions for this program

1. **Review** the [PLAR process and FAQs](#) and the information in this guide.
2. **Self-rate** your learning for each course using the [Course Outlines](#) in this guide.
3. **Consult** with the [PLAR contact person](#) for PLAR approval. Be prepared to provide your resume, course self-ratings (see [section F](#)), and a partially completed [PLAR application](#). If you are approved for PLAR, the contact person will sign your PLAR application and explain next steps.
4. Apply for admission to the program. See [directions](#) for applying.
5. **Register** for PLAR at [Registration/Enrolment Services](#) once you have signed approval on your [PLAR Application Form](#). The PLAR fee will be added to your student account.
6. **Finalize** an assessment plan with your assigned assessor.
7. **Complete** assessment before your PLAR registration expires.

E. PLAR contact person

Contact one of the Program Heads below to arrange a consultation **after** you have read this guide and [general PLAR information](#) and rated yourself for each course (see next section). Consultation may be by phone, online, or in person. Be prepared to provide your resume, course self-ratings, and a partially completed [PLAR application](#). If agreement is reached to go ahead with PLAR, the contact person will sign approval on your PLAR application and explain the next steps. Admission to the program is required before you can register for PLAR.

Robyn Mauza, Program Head

Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatoon Campus

Phone: 306 – 659 - 4215

Email: mauza@saskpolytech.ca

Jodi Thompson, Program Head

Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatoon Campus

Phone: 306 –659 –4411

Email: thompsonjos@saskpolytech.ca

F. Self-rating course outlines

Clicking on a course code below opens a page where you can rate yourself on the knowledge and skills assessed for PLAR credit. For Arts & Sciences courses, clicking on the course code opens another PLAR guide. The [PLAR contact person](#) for this program will refer you to another person to discuss PLAR for courses delivered by Arts & Sciences or another program/department.

COURSE CODE	COURSE NAME	Delivered by another department/program
APHY 103	Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology	
CLIN 198	Clinical ECG	
ECRD 180	Electrocardiography	
ETHC 185	Professional Practices 1	
INFC 180	Infection Control and Safety	
MICR 190	Introduction to Microbiology	
MTER 180	Medical Terminology	
PROC 180	General Laboratory Practice	
PROC 181	Specimen Collection and Handling	
PROC 183	Introduction to Basic Lab Procedures	

COURSE CODE	COURSE NAME	Delivered by another department/program
EDUC 100	Competency Development	

APHY 103 – Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology

You will be introduced to the study of the human body and how it functions efficiently. You will study various body systems that are of critical importance for the promotion and maintenance of health.

Credit unit(s): 3.0
Prerequisites: none
Corequisites: none
Equivalent course(s): none

Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome	Competent	Learning	None
Competent: I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision. Learning: I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome. None: I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.			
1. Describe the anatomical and organizational levels of the body.			
2. Describe the chemical constituents, structure, and functions of the cell.			
3. Describe the characteristics and functions of tissues, membranes, and the integumentary system of the body.			
4. Describe the structure and function of the skeletal system, articulations, and the muscular system.			
5. Describe the structures and general functions of the nervous and endocrine systems.			
6. Describe the components of blood and their functions and the role of the heart in the cardiovascular system.			
7. Describe the structure and functions of the circulatory system (cardiovascular and lymphatic) and respiratory system.			
8. Describe structures and general functions of digestive, urinary and reproductive systems.			
9. Describe the structure and function of the urinary and reproductive systems.			

CLIN 198 - Clinical ECG

You will participate in a supervised clinical experience at an assigned clinical site. Upon successfully completing this experience, you will be able to competently perform ECGs.

Credit unit(s): 2.0
Prerequisites: SIMU 280 or SIMU 100
Corequisites: none
Equivalent course(s): none

<p>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</p> <p>Competent: I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision. Learning: I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome. None: I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	Competent	Learning	None
1. Work safely in electrocardiography (ECG).			
2. Conduct all workplace actions in a professional manner.			
3. Display communication skills in electrocardiography.			
4. Demonstrate ability to work as part of the electrocardiography team.			
5. Manage the testing and reporting of ECGs.			
6. Perform basic management functions required for the effective running of the electrocardiography laboratory.			
7. Identify the need for adjustment to routine ECG procedure due to patient age or condition.			

ECRD 180 - Electrocardiography

Your studies will focus on the theoretical aspects required to perform electrocardiograms. The course content includes recording techniques, recognizing artifacts, and identifying remedies to minimize them, and recognizing basic cardiac arrhythmias.

Credit unit(s): 3.0
Prerequisites: none
Corequisites: none
Equivalent course(s): none

<p>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</p> <p>Competent: I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision. Learning: I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome. None: I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	Competent	Learning	None
1. Describe the structure and function of the heart.			
2. Explain lead theory and cardiac monitoring.			
3. Perform an ECG.			
4. Identify a systematic approach to 12-lead ECG assessments.			
5. Compare normal sinus rhythm to abnormal rhythms or ECG changes which require the physician's attention.			
6. Recognize appropriate and inappropriate electronic pacemaker function.			
7. Identify other cardiac devices and diagnostic procedures.			

ETHC 185 - Professional Practices 1

You will receive an introduction to health care and health care delivery systems. You will study the legal and ethical issues faced by health care professionals. You will discuss interpersonal and employability skills required in health care professions with an emphasis on teamwork, communication, and stress management. You will learn methods to deal with grief and loss, in addition to skills and techniques for critical thinking and conflict management.

Credit unit(s): 3.0
Prerequisites: none
Corequisites: none
Equivalent course(s): none

<p>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</p> <p>Competent: I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision. Learning: I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome. None: I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	Competent	Learning	None
1. Describe health and health care delivery.			
2. Describe legal and ethical issues in health care.			
3. Describe effective employability skills required in health care professionals.			
4. Describe interpersonal communication.			
5. Explain how to facilitate communication with individuals having diverse needs.			
6. Demonstrate critical thinking skills.			
7. Describe stress and stress management strategies.			
8. Describe the methods used when dealing with grief and loss.			
9. Analyze the components of conflict and techniques for conflict management.			

INFC 180 - Infection Control and Safety

You will learn the transmission of microorganisms and blood-borne pathogens as well as how to protect yourself and others when working with patients and patient samples.

Credit unit(s): 2.0
Prerequisites: none
Corequisites: none
Equivalent course(s): none

<p>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</p> <p>Competent: I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision. Learning: I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome. None: I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	Competent	Learning	None
1. Practice proper use of personal protective equipment.			
2. Describe safety in the workplace.			
3. Describe microorganisms.			
4. Describe the interaction between microbe and host.			
5. Discuss the importance of immunization and screening in health care.			
6. Discuss sterilization and disinfection procedures.			

MICR 190 - Introduction to Microbiology

You will receive the theory and practice required to culture routine microbiology specimens. You will discuss media composition, autoclaving, and quality control. The course content includes stool preparation for parasitology examination and Gram staining

Credit unit(s): 2.0
Prerequisites: MTER 180
Corequisites: PROC 180, PROC 181
Equivalent course(s): none

<p>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</p> <p>Competent: I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision. Learning: I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome. None: I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	Competent	Learning	None
1. Discuss the characteristics of bacteria.			
2. Describe the preparation of media for growth of bacteria.			
3. Discuss the principle and use of an autoclave.			
4. Perform specimen accessioning in the microbiology laboratory.			
5. Select appropriate media and incubation conditions for culture of clinical specimens.			
6. Demonstrate technique for culture of bacteria.			
7. Demonstrate technique for the Gram stain.			
8. Discuss the procedures for preparation of stool samples for parasitology examination.			

MTER 180 - Medical Terminology

You will learn to use the prefixes, suffixes and combining forms from which medical terms are derived. You will also learn to use medical abbreviations.

Credit unit(s): 1.0
Prerequisites: none
Corequisites: none
Equivalent course(s): none

<p>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</p> <p>Competent: I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision. Learning: I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome. None: I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	Competent	Learning	None
1. Examine the history of medical terminology, basic components, medical prefixes, and suffixes.			
2. Relate combining forms to body systems.			
3. Analyze commonly used medical terms and medical abbreviations.			

PROC 180 - General Laboratory Practice

You will learn the theory and practice required to perform basic procedures in a medical laboratory. The course content includes laboratory solution preparation with related calculation and standard laboratory equipment such as: glassware, centrifuges, balances, pipettes, thermal equipment, and microscopes. You will continue to apply previously learned laboratory theory and skills.

Credit unit(s): 3.0
Prerequisites: INFC 180
Corequisites: none
Equivalent course(s): none

<p>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</p> <p>Competent: I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision. Learning: I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome. None: I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	Competent	Learning	None
1. Perform safe laboratory practices.			
2. Perform Brightfield microscopy.			
3. Use standard laboratory equipment.			
4. Demonstrate proper use of manual and semi-automated pipettes.			
5. Perform calculations necessary for reagent, dilution and solution preparation.			
6. Perform the preparation of laboratory reagent, dilutions and solutions.			
7. Apply additional principles of microscopy.			

PROC 181 - Specimen Collection and Handling

You will learn how to collect, handle and transport various laboratory specimens to ensure the quality of laboratory results. The collection of blood specimens will be emphasized. You will practice venous collection on a variety of simulation training aids.

Credit unit(s): 3.0
Prerequisites: INFC 180
Corequisites: none
Equivalent course(s): none

<p>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</p> <p>Competent: I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision. Learning: I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome. None: I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	Competent	Learning	None
1. Collect blood samples by venipuncture.			
2. Manage the receipt, distribution, and storage of laboratory specimens.			
3. Collect blood samples by capillary puncture.			
4. Explain the procedures for collecting and handling laboratory specimens other than blood.			
5. Describe the transportation of laboratory specimens.			

PROC 183 - Introduction to Basic Lab Procedures

You will receive the theory and practice required to perform basic procedures in the clinical laboratory areas of specimen management, hematology and clinical chemistry. You will discuss the role of quality assurance including the importance of critical thinking strategies. You will demonstrate techniques for erythrocyte sedimentation rate, preparing and staining peripheral smears, macroscopic urine testing and point-of care testing.

Credit unit(s): 3.0
Prerequisites: MTER 180
Corequisites: PROC 180, PROC 181
Equivalent course(s): none

Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome		Competent	Learning	None
Competent:	I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision.			
Learning:	I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome.			
None:	I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.			
1.	Describe the organization of a clinical laboratory.			
2.	Demonstrate proper specimen accessioning and handling.			
3.	Discuss blood composition and common tests performed in hematology and chemistry.			
4.	Demonstrate preparation and staining of a peripheral blood smear.			
5.	Demonstrate technique for erythrocyte sedimentation rate.			
6.	Discuss general principles for ensuring quality assurance.			
7.	Demonstrate techniques for macroscopic urine testing.			
8.	Demonstrate techniques for point-of-care testing.			

EDUC 100 - Competency Development

You will develop a study plan using learning activities and assignments to maintain and improve personal competence. A systematic review of curriculum content, the national competency profile and comprehensive practice exam questions will be used to identify specific areas for improvement. You will develop your critical thinking and problem-solving skills through discussion with a health care problem base scenario.

Credit unit(s): 3.0
Prerequisites: MTER 180
Corequisites: PROC 180, PROC 181
Equivalent course(s): none

Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome		Competent	Learning	None
Competent:	I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision.			
Learning:	I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome.			
None:	I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.			
1.	Relate Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA) theory to the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) Competency Profile.			
2.	Develop a personal study plan.			
3.	Demonstrate critical thinking skills in relation to health care scenarios and case studies.			