



## POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Name	<b>Recognition of Prior Learning: PLAR and Transfer Credit</b>		
Policy #	<b>116</b>	Category	<b>Academic</b>
Policy Sponsor(s)	<b>Associate Vice-President, Learning and Teaching</b>	Previous Revision Date	<b>April 2014</b>
Policy Approved by	<b>President &amp; CEO</b>	Revision Date	<b>June 20, 2017</b>
Procedures Approved by	<b>Provost and Vice-President, Academic</b>	Review Date	<b>June 2022</b>

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 of 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 also 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 support 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

Recognition of Prior Learning at Saskatchewan Polytechnic: Faculty Guide

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Program Operating and Procedures Manual

1201 Academic Accommodation for Students in the Reserve Forces

1207 Grade Appeal

1210 Student Appeal

## **APPLICABLE LEGISLATION OR REGULATIONS**

N/A