

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING POLICY

This document is the parent policy for any related college procedures. Questions regarding this policy are to be directed to the identified Policy Administrator.

Functional Category:	Academic
Approval Date:	October 21, 2020
Effective Date:	October 21, 2020
Policy Owner:	Vice President, Academic
Policy Administrator:	Senior Manager, Registrar

Objective: NorQuest College (college) is committed to minimizing barriers to student mobility while maintaining the integrity, quality and rigor of our programs and credentials. The college supports the recognition of previously acquired skills, competencies, and knowledge through study, work, and life experiences.

Authority to establish this policy is derived from the [NorQuest College Board of Governor's Policy No. 5](#) which delegates authority to the President and CEO to establish policies and procedures for the college's management and operation.

Policy: A student who has been accepted into a ministry-approved program may be awarded credit by demonstrating prior learning that directly relates to the learning outcomes of courses in their program. Recognition of prior learning defines processes that allow NorQuest College students to identify, document, have assessed and gain recognition for their prior learning.

Prior learning may be recognized through the awarding of transfer credit, successful completion of a challenge assessment, or Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR).

Mechanisms for requesting recognition of prior learning should be accessible and efficient for students.

College subject-matter experts will conduct assessments of prior learning.

Students who wish to appeal a college decision regarding recognition of prior learning may request a review by a second college subject-matter expert.

Definitions: **Challenge Assessment:** a test, exam, or assignment (written or oral) that is designed to validate the knowledge of a NorQuest College student as it relates to course requirements. The challenge assessment is directly related to the learning outcomes of the course.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR): a formal evaluation and recognition of the skills and knowledge applicants have, regardless of how or where these skills were obtained (e.g., through informal education or training, paid or unpaid work experience, volunteer work, life experience). Recognition is not awarded for experience; it is awarded for demonstrating knowledge or skills acquired through experience.

Transfer Agreement: an agreement between two post-secondary institutions (a sending and receiving institution) that specifies how the sending institution's course or program will be accepted for transfer (credit) at the receiving institution. Transfer agreements in Alberta are recorded in the Alberta Transfer Guide.

**Related NorQuest
College Information:**

**Related External
Information:**

Next Review Date:

Revision History:

- Challenge Exam Procedure (To be developed)
- [Graduation Requirements and Issuance of Credentials Procedure](#)
- [Recognition of Prior Learning Procedure](#)
- [Transfer Credit Procedure](#)

- [*Post-Secondary Learning Act*](#)

March 2024

October 2020: new