



PACIFIC COAST UNIVERSITY  
FOR WORKPLACE HEALTH SCIENCES

## Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) - Policy 085

### *Policy Statement*

The University offers candidates several methods of documenting and demonstrating that they have achieved a level of learning equivalent to that which normally would be acquired through formal study.

The student has the primary responsibility for providing sufficient evidence that learning has been achieved. The University has the responsibility to ensure that standards of educational quality are met.

### *Related Policy*

Admissions  
Academic Appeals and Complaints  
Dispute Resolution

### *Definitions*

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) means a process of assessment by valid and reliable means, by a qualified specialist and an expert in the relevant field, of what has been learned that is worthy of credit in a course or program offered by the University. PLAR is used to evaluate learning which may have been achieved through work experience, independent reading, volunteer work, informal and formal learning or other relevant activities. PLAR is based on documentation that provides authenticated evidence of learning. PLAR is only available for specialized courses. PLAR credits are only granted on the basis that it is considered that the applicant meets all the learning objectives of a course and are not granted for partial credits.

University means Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences, a corporation established under the Act

### *Procedures*

No single assessment method is best for any or all situations; methods should be selected to suit the unique needs of the particular situation.

To achieve recognition for PLAR, students must demonstrate learning at a level of achievement equivalent to students who have successfully completed the specific course for which credit is being requested.

The methods include, but are not limited to, course challenge, portfolio assessment, and assessment of credits earned.

An applicant requesting PLAR must be admitted to the University before PLR will proceed.

The University will award credit only for prior learning which is documented.

Program/department faculty will determine the PLAR assessment method and grading scheme most appropriate for their program and courses.

Prior learning will be assessed by a Faculty Member who is an expert in the subject area and a professional with training in Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition. The Assessors will be responsible for ensuring that the documentation provided by the student supports the claim for credit.



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Students who receive an unfavourable decision from the Assessor will have access to the University's appeal process as outlined in the Academic Appeals and Complaints Policy and the Dispute Resolution Policy.

*Approvals and Responsibility*

Approved by: Board of Governors, March 27, 2012

Approved by: Academic Council, April 12, 2012; November 16, 2016

Revised: June 18, 2014; November 16, 2016

Responsibility: Chief Academic Officer

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End of Document