

University of Winnipeg Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Policies and Procedures

The University of Winnipeg Senate approved the following PLAR policies and procedures in September 1999. Regulations and policies are listed in the Academic Calendar under Regulations and Policies #6. Recognition of Prior Learning, a. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition - Challenge for Credit.

1. The purpose of Challenge for Credit is to provide an alternate mechanism by which students can gain credit for courses approved by Senate.
2. Challenge for Credit in Arts and Science is only available to students who have been admitted to the University of Winnipeg.
3. Credit gained through Challenge for Credit mechanisms cannot be used to satisfy specified University of Winnipeg Residence Requirements.
4. Students will receive a "Standing" in courses for which credit is obtained through Challenge for Credit.
5. Credits obtained through Challenge for Credit mechanisms will be identified on the student's history and transcript. A record will be kept on the student's history, but not the official transcript, of failed attempts to Challenge for Credit.
6. Students normally may not challenge a course in Arts and Science if they have previously registered in that course or its equivalent at the University of Winnipeg or another university.
7. Permission to Challenge a course for credit must be obtained from the department/program.
8. An assessment will be performed only for students who have satisfactorily demonstrated to the department/program through pre-assessment evaluation and advising that they have learning sufficient to justify the challenge.
9. The department/program will determine the modes of assessment (e.g., challenge exam, interview, portfolio, skills demonstration, etc.) appropriate for the course being challenged.
10. The fees in the Faculty of Arts and Science will initially be set at half the course fee.
11. If a student does not succeed at a Challenge, he/she can, with sufficient evidence, challenge the specific course one further time after a minimum of six months.

CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

1. To apply for Challenge for Credit, a student must be admitted to the appropriate faculty/division of the University of Winnipeg.
2. The student must present (to the department/program) evidence of prior learning.
3. The student will be required to complete appropriate orientation and advising as determined by the university and department/program.
4. The student may be required to complete appropriate preparation training (e.g., for portfolio development).
5. Students must have approval of an appropriate assessment "team" (department chair, appropriate faculty) to proceed with a challenge.

RESTRICTIONS ON CHALLENGING FOR CREDIT

1. Students will be granted "Standing" in the course rather than a letter grade.
2. Course credit accumulated by challenge will not meet the UW residency requirements.
3. The official transcript will continue to indicate when credit is gained by challenge (of any type).
4. Students may apply a maximum of 30 credit hours toward a degree through Challenge for Credit.
5. Departments/programs may determine the number of challenge credits that may be used toward the major.
6. Students can only challenge courses delivered by the University of Winnipeg (i.e., only courses which appear in Section B of the UW Calendar or the UW Timetable can be used toward a degree; only courses offered by Continuing Education can be used toward a Continuing Education diploma or certificate). Unallocated credit will not normally be assigned.
7. If a student does not receive credit after challenging a course, a note to this effect will be entered on the student's history but will not be entered on the official transcript.
8. If a student does not receive credit after completing the assessment process, one further attempt can be made to challenge for credit after a minimum of six months, provided additional learning can be demonstrated. The course instructor may inform the student of areas where learning is inadequate and may be able to recommend ways to acquire or demonstrate that learning.
9. A student will receive credit only if the work meets the standard expected of students who successfully complete the course with a grade of "C" or better.

[PLAR/Policies/Policies and Procedures September 1999]