Assessment and Recognition of Prior Learning and Skills Policy

Policy statement
Bow Valley College supports the recognition of individuals' previously acquired skills, competencies, and knowledge because these are key components to facilitating lifelong learning and employment.

Purpose
Bow Valley College recognizes prior learning acquired through study, work, and life experiences, which has not been recognized through formal transfer credit mechanisms. This policy and accompanying procedure outline the principles by which prior learning and skill acquisition assessment and recognition is governed and identifies the criteria and process to grant credit recognition.

Scope
This policy applies to College community members including the Bow Valley College Board of Governors, Executive Management, employees, third party vendors, contractors, and learners.The policy applies to credit and non-credit courses.

Principal objectives
1. The College is committed to minimizing barriers to student mobility while maintaining the integrity, quality and rigor of our programs and credentials.
2. Recognition of prior learning and skill acquisition practices will be efficient, relevant, effective, and accessible for all learners.
3. Recognition of prior learning and skill acquisition mechanisms will be flexible and responsive to the diverse needs of individual leaners and the College in order to accommodate the learner while maintaining quality standards.
4. Recognition of prior learning and skill acquisition contributes to the efficiency of the educational system by efforts to eliminate redundant education or training for individuals who have acquired competency elsewhere.
5. When recognizing prior learning and acquired skills, current competency and knowledge is central to whether credit is awarded.
6. Both Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) and Competency-Based Education (CBE) assessments are mechanisms for granting credit recognition to learners.
7. As PLAR takes place outside of course delivery; it does not contribute to Full Load Equivalent (FLE) calculation, whereas CBE assessments take place as part of course delivery; therefore credit acquired through the assessment contributes to Full Load Equivalent (FLE) calculation.

Compliance
This policy applies to College community members including the Bow Valley College Board of Governors, Executive Management, employees, third party vendors, contractors, and learners. The policy applies to credit and non-credit courses

Definitions
Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR):
Is a process that takes place outside of course delivery that identifies, assesses, and recognizes prior skills, competencies, and knowledge. These may have been acquired through formal, informal, non-formal, or experiential learning via work experience, training, independent study, or volunteer activities.

Competency-Based Education (CBE):
Is instructional delivery that puts students at the centre of their own learning, allowing them to chart their learning at a speed that works best for them following a custom learning pathway that is based on assessment and recognition of skills and knowledge that has been acquired through formal, informal, non-formal, or experiential learning via work experience, training, independent study or volunteer activities.

Data sheet

Accountable officer
Vice President responsible for career programs

Responsible officer
Deans responsible for post-secondary programs
Registrar

Approval
See "Development Framework" for approvers of policy, procedures, and guidelines.

Contact area
Office of the Vice President, Academic and Chief Learning Officer

Relevant dates

Approved	Board of Governors: BOG211027-03
Effective	November 2015
Next review	October 2024
Modification history	Name Change October 2021 Rebranded 2021 Policy Committee reviewed and updated numbering format January 2022
Verified By	Office of the President, March 2022*

Associated policy(ies)
Academic Accommodations and Support for Learners with Disabilities Policy & Procedure (500-1-4)
Academic Continuance and Graduation Policy & Procedure (500-1-5)
Learner Credit Registration Policy & Procedure (500-1-17)
Learner Records & Information – Collection, Access & Waivers Policy (500-1-16)
Transfer Credit Request Policy & Procedure (500-1-9)

Procedures
Assessment and Recognition of Prior Learning and Skills Procedure (500-1-8)
Learner Appeals Procedures (500-1-12)
Grading Policy Procedure (500-1-6)