



# PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION POLICY

## PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

### Policy Statement

#### *What is the policy?*

Bow Valley College thinks it is important to recognize the skills and knowledge people learned before they come to the College. This policy supports life-long learning, helps with employment, and builds our community.

### Purpose

#### *What is the policy for?*

Bow Valley College recognizes **prior** learning. This could be learning you got through work, study, or life experiences. This learning has not been recognized through a formal credit transfer.

This policy shows how Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (**PLAR**) works. This policy describes the requirements and process for getting credit for **prior** learning.

**Prior** learning means learning you did before you came to the College.

The process of getting credit for **prior** learning is called **PLAR**.

### Scope and Compliance

#### *Who does the policy affect?*

This policy is for credit and non-credit courses.

All employees, learners, and contractors at Bow Valley College are responsible for knowing, understanding, and following policies and procedures.

## Main Objectives

### *What are the goals of the policy?*

1. The College wants to make it easy for learners to move to different institutions. The College also wants to maintain the quality and academic standards of our programs and credentials.
2. **PLAR** practices will be fast and accessible to all learners.
3. **PLAR** processes will be flexible. They will meet the needs of learners and the College. They will help the learner and maintain College standards.
4. **PLAR** helps keep the educational system efficient. It reduces the need to study the same thing over again.
5. **PLAR** looks at the current skills and knowledge of the learner. It is therefore important to look at **when** the learner received the training.

**PLAR** means Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition. It is a process for getting credit for things you have already learned.

## Definitions

**Prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR):** This is a process of recognizing what you have already learned. Prior learning can include skills and knowledge you got through formal and informal learning. You may have gotten this learning through work experience, training, independent study, or volunteering.