



**SUBJECT:** Student Affairs  
**POLICY:** 306.1 Prior Learning Assessment  
**RELATED PROCEDURE:** 306.1.1  
**EFFECTIVE:** June 2007

**REVIEWED:** September 2023

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### **Introduction and Purpose**

Credit for prior learning describes methods used by Great Falls College MSU to assess college-level learning that a student obtained outside of the traditional college setting and award college credit toward a degree or certificate program.

### **Policy**

#### **Eligibility**

- Prospective students may explore credit for prior learning options available to them through the Great Falls College MSU website or connect with a Great Falls College MSU advisor to determine potential eligibility.
- Credit may be granted to admitted students to Great Falls College MSU
- Students seeking PLA via portfolio, challenge exams, or other faculty-determined assessment methods must be currently enrolled at Great Falls College MSU in a degree seeking program

#### **Award Guidelines**

- PLA is appropriate only for 100 & 200 level undergraduate courses.
- Credit may be granted only for documented learning, which falls within the regular curricular offerings of the institution, except for the Technical Studies program which will use the CTE prefix
- Credit for Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) experiential learning (i.e. portfolio assessment, individual performance or demonstration assessment, or other faculty-determined assessment methods) cannot constitute more than 75% of the required credits needed for a degree.
- PLA credits do not count towards enrollments in evaluating financial aid.
- Credit for prior learning cannot duplicate other credit awarded.

#### **Transferability**

- Credits granted for PLA at Great Falls College MSU may transfer to other institutions in the Montana University System (MUS) according to Board of Regents [Policy 301.19](#). Credits granted for PLA may transfer to institutions outside the MUS but are subject to limitations imposed by the receiving institution.
- Students should check with the transfer institution regarding transferability.
- Credits earned at other MUS institutions through PLA are eligible for transfer to Great Falls College MSU and are subject to institutional policies and procedures for the evaluation of transfer credit.

#### **Faculty Assessors Professional Development**

The institution will provide training for faculty involved in assessing a student's prior learning knowledge through challenge exam, portfolio assessment, other faculty-determined assessment methods, etc.

#### **Related Forms/Manuals**

[Experiential Learning Form](#)

Faculty Tracking Form

#### **Related Policies**

Montana Board of Regents [Policy 301.19](#)