

Brandon University and the Brandon Flight Centre: A Case Study in Recognizing Non-Formal Learning

Manitoba Prior Learning Assessment
Network (MPLAN)

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BRANDON
UNIVERSITY

Land Acknowledgement



Mamaawii-atooshke aakihkiwiin Working Together and Growing

We respect the treaties that were made on these lands and acknowledge that Brandon University is located on Treaty 2 Lands. On behalf of Brandon University, I welcome you to the traditional homelands of the Dakota, Anishanabek, Oji-Cree, Cree, Dene and Metis peoples.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Recognizing Prior Learning (RPL)

Types of Learning:

- ▶ Formal – learning that is usually organized by professional educators that leads to a [post-secondary] qualification or academic credential (certificate, diploma, degree) and is offered by an educational such as accredited college or university {secondary credentials are offered at high schools} / *obvious & privileged*
- ▶ **Non-Formal** – learning offered by a sector, professional group, organization, association, workplace enterprise to address specific training needs. A structured curriculum is often applied, but formal assessments may or may not be required / *often anticipated but overlooked*
- ▶ Informal – learning attained through life and work experience. Learning is often unstructured and not officially evaluated / *first baked birthday cake?*

Amended from CAPLA (2015) *Quality Assurance for the Recognition of Prior Learning in Canada*, Appendix A Glossary.

CAPLA PLAR / RPL Principles

- ▶ Accessible – RPL services are responsive to client inquiries, timely, cost-effective, & adult learner centred
- ▶ Consistent – RPL decision makers adopt similar criteria, policies & procedures
- ▶ Fair – services are unbiased and acknowledge individuals' unique ways of learning
- ▶ Respectful – services are non-discriminatory, culturally sensitive & inclusive
- ▶ Valid – assessments methods are appropriate for measuring the learning attained

Amended from CAPLA (2015) *Quality Assurance for the Recognition of Prior Learning in Canada*, p. 7-8.

CAPLA PLAR / RPL Principles

- ▶ Flexible – a variety of assessment methods are available
- ▶ Rigorous – Assessments are conducted by subject area experts and adopt traditional assessment methods
- ▶ Transparent – Information on policies, principles & procedures is fully disclosed and accessible.
- ▶ Professionally Supported – Staff involved in PLAR/RPL services receive initial and ongoing training.

PLAR process at Brandon University

Step 1. Initial Consultation (**Student, Faculty, Community Outreach**) **

- ▶ Review the BU PLAR Policy and Process
- ▶ Discussion with faculty members* and student to resolve the PLAR assessments: course equivalent credit; unallocated credit; unaccredited credential
- ▶ Complete the PLAR Application Form and pay the PLAR Assessment Fee

* Faculty members and Departments are not obliged to participate in PLAR. Deemed community service and unpaid. Remuneration only for Sessionals.

** Case Study was driven by a BU geography student and Outreach to/by BFC.

PLAR process at Brandon University

Step 2. Conduct the Prior Learning Assessments

Portfolio, Exam, Demonstration, Interview * / **

- Review course outline(s) and objective(s)
- Organize and submit the PLAR Portfolio for assessment – if applicable
- Schedule and conduct other applicable assessment methods

Non-accredited Credential Review: Certificate, Diploma, Course (s)/Micro-credentials **

- Compile curriculum for completed certificate diploma, or course(s)
- Submit curriculum to relevant BU department(s) for assessment

Step 3. Result of Prior Learning Assessments

Credit recognized \ Credit not recognized / Credit Pending ***

- PLAR Credits added to student's BU Transcript: PLAR / CR

* Assessment methods are guided by the faculty assessor(s) and/or department.

** PLAR Fee – 50% of relevant tuition; **\$325. per non-accredited credential**

*** Assessment resolved after completing a supplementary assessment.

Examples of Non-Accredited Credentials Assessed

- ▶ International Association For Six Sigma Certification – Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Certification (Business Administration) – 3 cr hrs at 1st Yr *
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety Certificate, University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension (Applied & Disaster and Emergency Studies) – 9 cr hrs at 1st Yr
- ▶ Klinik Crisis Line Volunteer Training (Psychology) – 6 cr hrs at 1st Yr
- ▶ Manitoba Justice – Corrections Officer I/Juvenile Counsellor Basic Training Program (Sociology) – 6 cr hrs at 1st Yr

* Credential requires reassessment; 5-year limit on initial recognition

Case Study: BU / Brandon Flight Centre (BFC)

Summer 2020:

- first contact with BFC staff (Jillian Borreson, Student Services Coordinator) – then Covid hit

Oct.-Dec. 2021:

- Reviewed BFC ground school and in-flight training (Private & Commercial Pilot Licenses and additional Ratings), & Transport Canada website;
- Conducted scan of Canadian Universities with degrees in Aviation Studies;

Mar.-Aug. 2022:

- Connected with BU departments and reviewed PLAR Policy and Procedures, & BFC (Transport Canada) curricula
- Conducted Formal Assessments

Sept.-Oct 2022:

- Finalized and Approved Assessments Results

Canadian Universities with Aviation Studies

Institution Flight Centre	Degree Program(s)	Flight Centre Block Credits
Un. of Waterloo Waterloo-Wellington Flight Centre	B. of Environmental Studies (Geography & Aviation) - 4yr & Honors BSc. and Aviation - 4yr & Honors	30 credit hrs 39 credit hrs
Un. of Western Ontario Diamond Flight Centre London Inc.	B. of Management and Organizational Studies (Aviation Management) - 4yr, Honors, & Double-Major	Not specified
Mount Allison Un. Moncton Flight Centre	BSc. in Aviation - 4yr B. of Commerce in Aviation - 4yr	36 credit hrs 36 credit hrs
Un. of the Fraser Valley None specified as multiple are available in the lower mainland	B. of Business Administration (Aviation) - 4yr B. of Integrated Studies - 4yr, 2 + 2 program (Aviation Diploma & customized studies)	15 credit hrs 15 credit hrs
Providence Un. College Narv's Air	BA in Advanced Aviation - 4yr Major BA in Bus. Admin & Aviation - 4yr Double-Major	48 credit hrs 39 credit hrs

Brandon University Assessment Process

Involved Departments and Principles:

- ▶ Geography and Environment (Dion Wiseman), Physics and Astronomy (Todd Fugleberg), and Psychology (Tammy McKenzie)
- ▶ Ground school curricula assessment – compared university programs against Transport Canada licensing requirements (Phases 1 -9; Cards for In-flight Training), examined BFC textbooks and assessment methods, compared BFC curricula against BU course outlines
- ▶ In-flight Training assessment – compared university programs against Transport Canada licensing requirements and BFC training

Results and Approval of PLAR Credits

Department	Credential – Ground school Instruction	
	Private Pilot License	Commercial Pilot License
Geography and Environment	38:250 Intro to Weather and Climate	
	3 cr/hrs Unallocated at 1 st Yr 3 cr/hrs Unallocated at 2 nd Yr	6 cr/hrs Unallocated at 2 nd Yr
Physics and Astronomy	3 cr/hrs Unallocated at 1 st Yr	3 cr/hrs Unallocated at 1 st Yr
Psychology		Human Factors in Aviation 3 cr/hrs Unallocated at 1 st Yr
Ground school PLAR credit	12 credit hours	12 credit hours

Departmental recognition, approved by Dean of Science

Results and Approval of PLAR Credits

Credentials	PLAR credits
Private Pilot License In-flight training	3 PLAR cr/hrs at the 100 level in the Faculty of Science
Commercial Pilot License In-flight training	3 PLAR cr/hrs at the 200 level in the Faculty of Science
Multi-engine and Multi-engine Instrumentation Ratings: Ground school & In-flight training	3 PLAR cr/hrs at the 200 level in the Faculty of Science
Additional PLAR credits	9
Total PLAR credit for Private Pilot License, Commercial Pilot License, and Multi-engine and Multi-engine Instrumentation Ratings	33

Geography and Physics Departmental proposed recognition, motion approved at Oct 2022 Science Faculty Council, motion signed off by Dean of Science *

Integration of BFC PLAR Credit in BU degrees

- ▶ Recognized PLAR credit is not establishing a new degree
 - ▶ PLAR credit for training from other flight centres is possible
- ▶ PLAR credit fits within any BA or BSc 4yr major
 - ▶ Possible exceptions: Double-majors, 2nd Degree [extra credits]
- ▶ All degree, residency and Liberal Education requirements are maintained

Interested Departments:

- ▶ Business Administration, Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies, Geography, Languages, Physics
- ▶ Native Studies, Rural Development
- ▶ Co-op Education (BFC training could provide work-study opportunities in Aviation industry)

Opportunities for assessing Non-accredited credentials

Students, Post-secondaries, Granting Institution

- ▶ Recognizing and laddering learner's credentials within the scope of BU's degree and life-long learning
- ▶ Expanding student's learning opportunities while reducing degree completion timeline and costs
- ▶ Acknowledging the autonomy of granting institution's curriculum while welcoming possible collaboration on curriculum design
- ▶ Developing educational partnerships through community outreach (Government of Manitoba, Business related sectors – Real Estate, Human Resource Management, Insurance)
- ▶ ?

Challenges

- ▶ Lack of access to the credential's full curriculum given the granting institution's educational and proprietary interests
- ▶ Competing strategic academic interests between post-secondaries and granting institutions (liberal education vs employment related training)
- ▶ Faculty / Departmental opposition to / misunderstandings about PLAR/RPL principles & practices
- ▶ ?

References

Brandon University:

<https://www.brandonu.ca/future-students/apply/plar/>

CAPLA:

<http://capla.ca/>

Transport Canada:

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/aviation/licensing-pilots-personnel/flight-crew-licences-permits-ratings/qualifications-pilot-licences-permits>

Brandon Flight Centre:

<https://www.brandonflightcentre.com/>

Un. of Waterloo:

<http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/page/SCI-Honours-Science-and-Aviation1>

<https://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/page/ENV-Honours-Geography-and-Aviation>

Un. of Western Ontario:

<https://dan.uwo.ca/undergraduate/cam/>

Mount Allison Un.:

<https://mta.ca/current-students/aviation-program/aviation-courses-and-programs>

Un. of the Fraser Valley:

<https://www.ufv.ca/programs/aviation-bba/>

<https://www.ufv.ca/programs/aviation-integrated-studies/>

Providence Un. College:

<https://www.prov.ca/programs-courses/university-college/professional-studies/aviation/>

Contact Information

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<https://www.brandonu.ca/future-students/apply/plar/>

Thank you

Questions/Comments/Suggestions

