

SUBJECT: Student Affairs

POLICY: 306.1 Prior Learning Assessment (*formerly Experiential Learning*)

RELATED PROCEDURE: 306.1.1

EFFECTIVE: June 2007

REVISED: May 2016

REVIEWED: May 2016

Introduction and Purpose

Great Falls College MSU recognizes that learning occurs outside of the college setting. The outcome of this learning is often the acquisition of skills and/or knowledge which may be equivalent to learning at GFC MSU and other institutions of Higher Education. GFC MSU may award credit for this learning through its Prior Learning Assessment Policy (PLA).

Policy

Eligibility

- Credit for prior learning may be granted only at the undergraduate level.
- Credit may be granted only to admitted students to GFC MSU
- Credit for prior experiential learning cannot duplicate other credit awarded.
- Students seeking PLA via portfolio, challenge exams, or other faculty-determined assessment methods must be current enrolled at GFC MSU in a degree seeking program.
- GFC MSU does not allow prior learning assessment for prospective students.
- PLA is appropriate only for college-level learning.
- Credit may be granted only for documented learning, which falls within the regular curricular offerings of the institution.
- PLA credits do not count towards enrollments in evaluating financial aid.

Transferability

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

Faculty Assessors Professional Development

The institution will provide training on PLA principles and best practices for faculty involved in assessment of prior learning via challenge exam, portfolio assessment or other faculty-determined assessment methods.

Related Forms/Manuals

Prior Learning Assessment Form

Faculty Portfolio Form

Related Policies

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) [Policy 2.C.7](#)

Montana Board of Regents [Policy 301.19](#)

Montana Board of Regents [PLA Expanded Policy Recommendations](#)