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).

Credit for prior learning describes several methods used by Great Falls College MSU to assess college-level learning that a student obtained outside of the Institution to 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 for prior learning may be granted only at the undergraduate level.
- Credit may be granted only to admitted students to Great Falls College 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 currently enrolled at Great Falls College MSU in a degree seeking program.

Award Guidelines
- Great Falls College MSU does not allow prior learning assessment for prospective students.
- PLA is appropriate only for 100 & 200 level undergraduate courses, college level learning.
- Credit for prior learning 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 experiential 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 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 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 on PLA principles and best practices for faculty involved in assessing a student’s knowledge through via challenge exam, portfolio assessment, or other faculty-determined assessment methods, etc.
Related Forms/Manuals

- Experiential Learning Form
- Faculty Tracking Form

Related Policies

Montana Board of Regents Policy 301.19